SHINONOME TANTEI IBUN ROKU

TARATSUMI JOHN

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Chapter 3

Just the right amount of muscle...

And long, slender arms...

GHOST EXTERMINATION...?

Handsome features...

IT'S MY BOYFRIEND'S HOME, BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF FOREIGNERS AROUND...

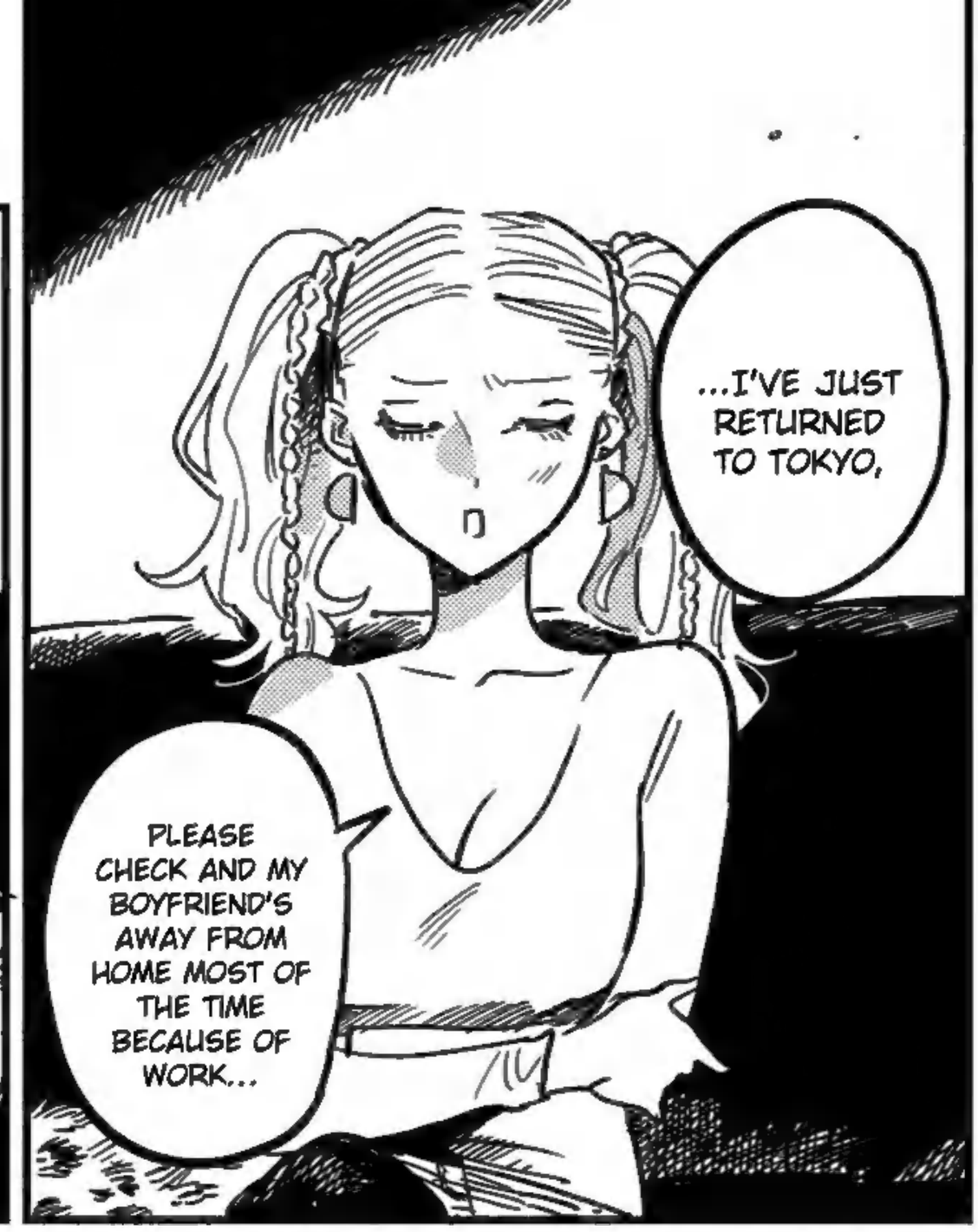
I CAN HEAR A CRYING VOICE FROM THE GROVE OF TREES BEHIND THE APARTMENT HOUSE...

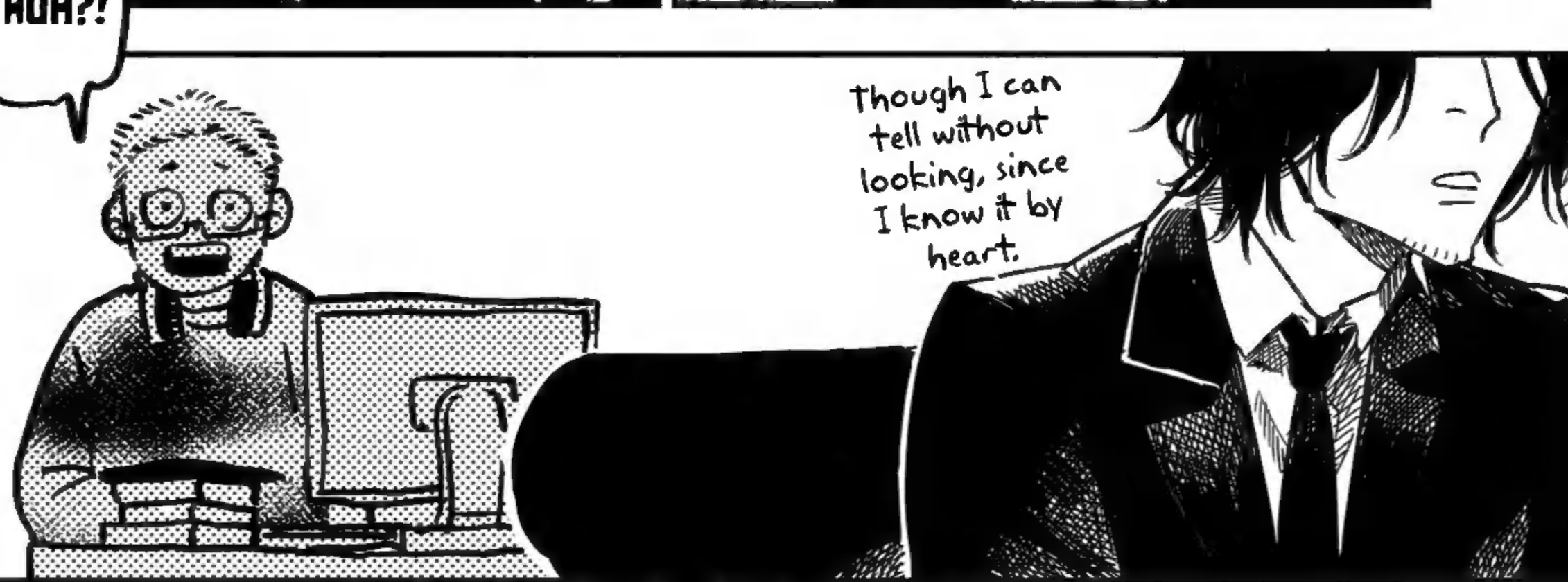
with moles scattered over pale skin, he gives off an air of detachment from the world of the living.

IT'S HARD TO ASK FOR ADVICE...

The Annals of the Strange Tales of the Daylight Detective
Chapter 3
THEN WHY?!
?
WHOA, THAT STARTLED ME.
GOD DAMMIT!

HOSHI-HIKO.
I SEE.
BRING ME THE MAP OF THE AREA AROUND ADACHI WARD.
HUH?!


...I'VE JUST RETURNED TO TOKYO,
PLEASE CHECK AND MY BOYFRIEND'S AWAY FROM HOME MOST OF THE TIME BECAUSE OF WORK...


Though I can tell without looking, since I know it by heart.

AAAAH...
AAAA...
AAAAH...
Here you go.
MM-HM...
HE'D NORMALLY ASK ME TO DO THAT.
SHOVE

GASP

IS HE AIMING TO INHERIT FROM THE BOSS?

MUTTER

Hey. STOP MUTTERING TO YOURSELF.

RUMBLE

SHIT... I'M IN NO SHAPE FOR A FIGHT!!!

GASP!

SHUDDER

ISN'T HE GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO HIM?

ALWAYS SMELLING NICE, WITH HIS STYLISH LOOKS, THAT BASTARD NEEDS TO TELL ME WHAT GYM HE GOES TO!

RUMBLE

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

YOU'RE MY RIVAL!

MY RIVAL!

YOUR HOME IS HERE?

glance

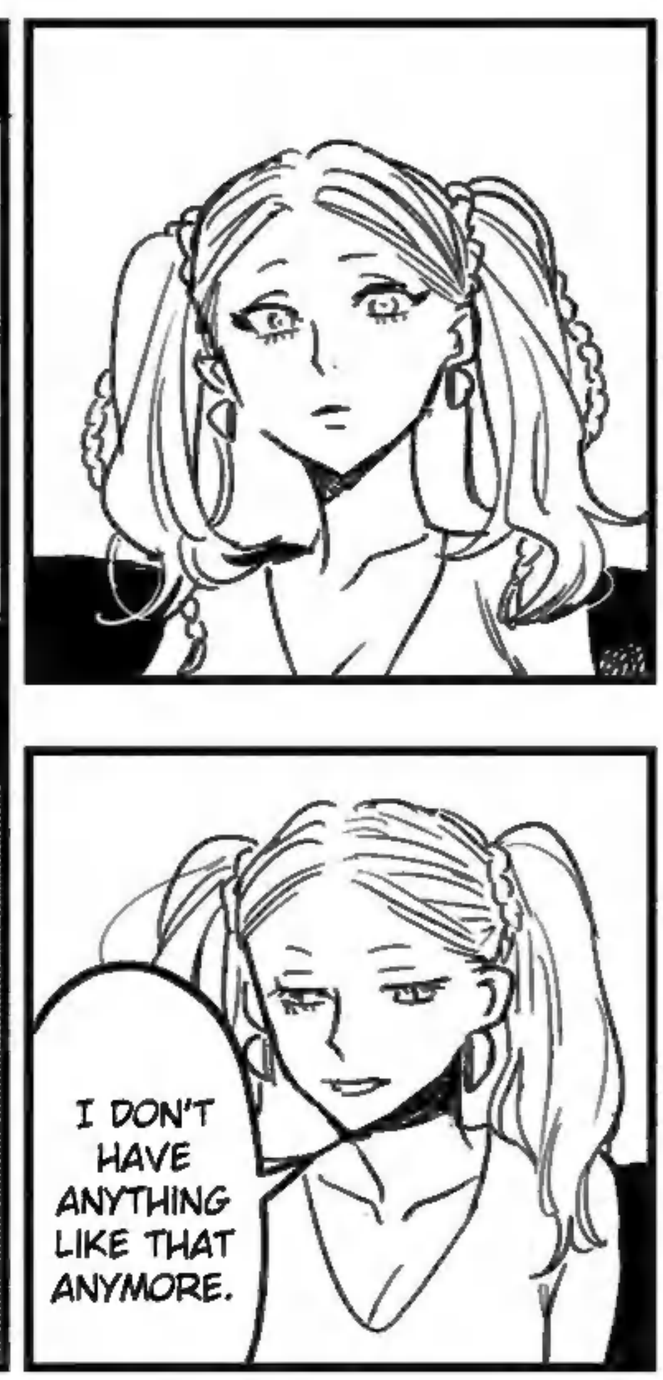
YEAH. IT'S A SUPER BAD NEIGHBOR HOOD.

THE STREETS ARE ALL DARK...

I'VE EVEN JUST MISSED BEING HIT BY A CAR BECAUSE OF LACK OF SLEEP...

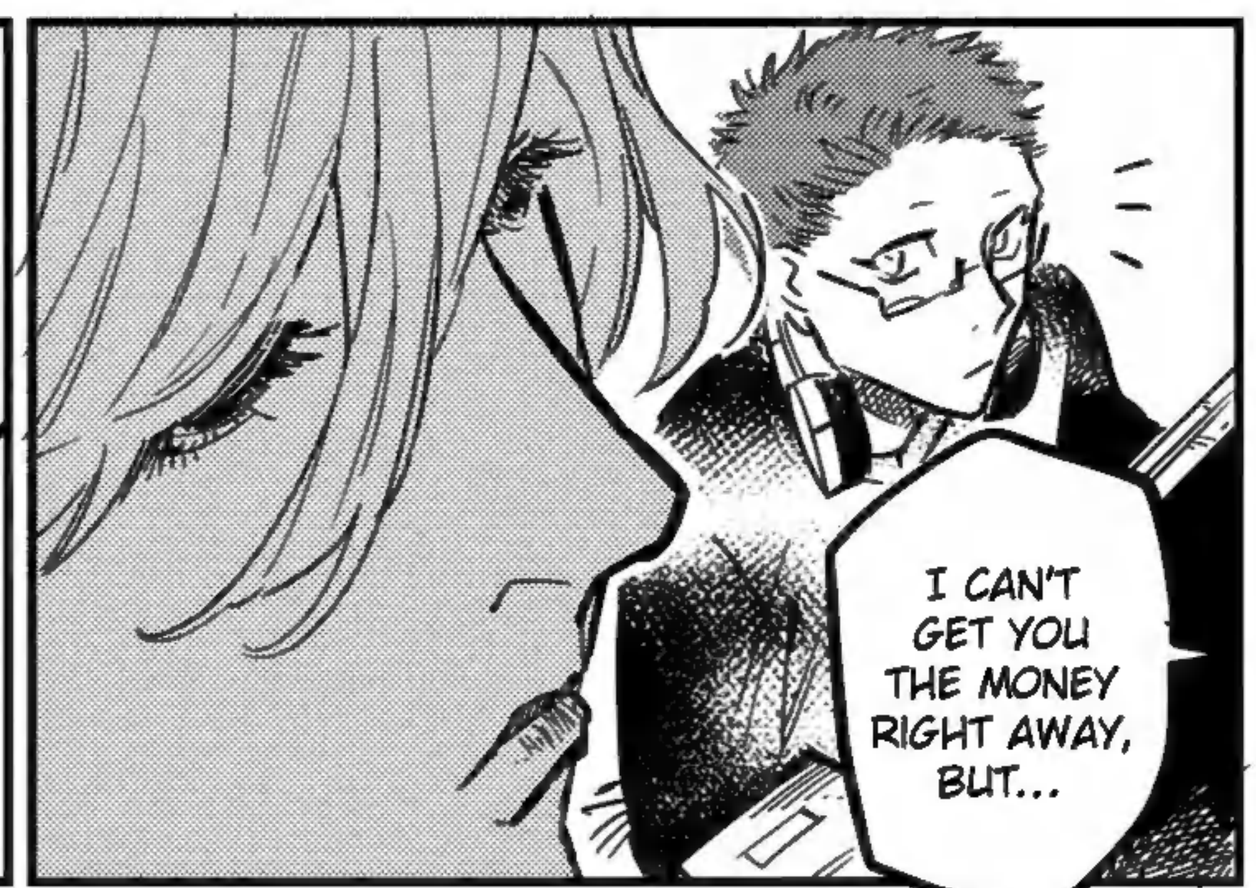
IT'S HORRIBLE.

...
I SEE...


I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

EXCUSE ME, BUT...
COULD YOU GO BACK TO YOUR PARENTS' HOME TEMPORA -RILY?

I CAN PAY YOU WHEN YOU GET THE RESULTS.
?


I CAN'T GET YOU THE MONEY RIGHT AWAY, BUT...

PLEASE...

PUT A STOP TO THAT CRYING VOICE.

Boop Boop Boop

Boop Boop Boop Boop

It is now five o'clock.

WHERE DO YOU GO WHEN YOU GO HOME, HOSHIHIKO-SAN?

prickle

This way.

Children playing outside must return to their homes.

I FEEL BAD FOR THE CHIEF. WE LEFT HIM ALL ALONE.

INDEED.

OVER HERE.

WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?!

Heh.

THIS IS ...

DILAPIDATED...

Googling
IT'S DEFINITELY A STIGMATIZED PROPERTY.
NO...!
HEH
I KNOW, IT'S FALL-ING APART.
HONEST, AREN'T YOU?
BUT I RESEARCHED IT, AND IT'S NOT.
THOUGH IT SURE IS DARK HERE.
THE GROVE IS BACK THERE.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE IT'S BEEN CARED FOR.
AND WHERE DID THE CRYING VOICE COME FROM?
...IT CERTAINLY HAS A BAD FEELING ABOUT IT.

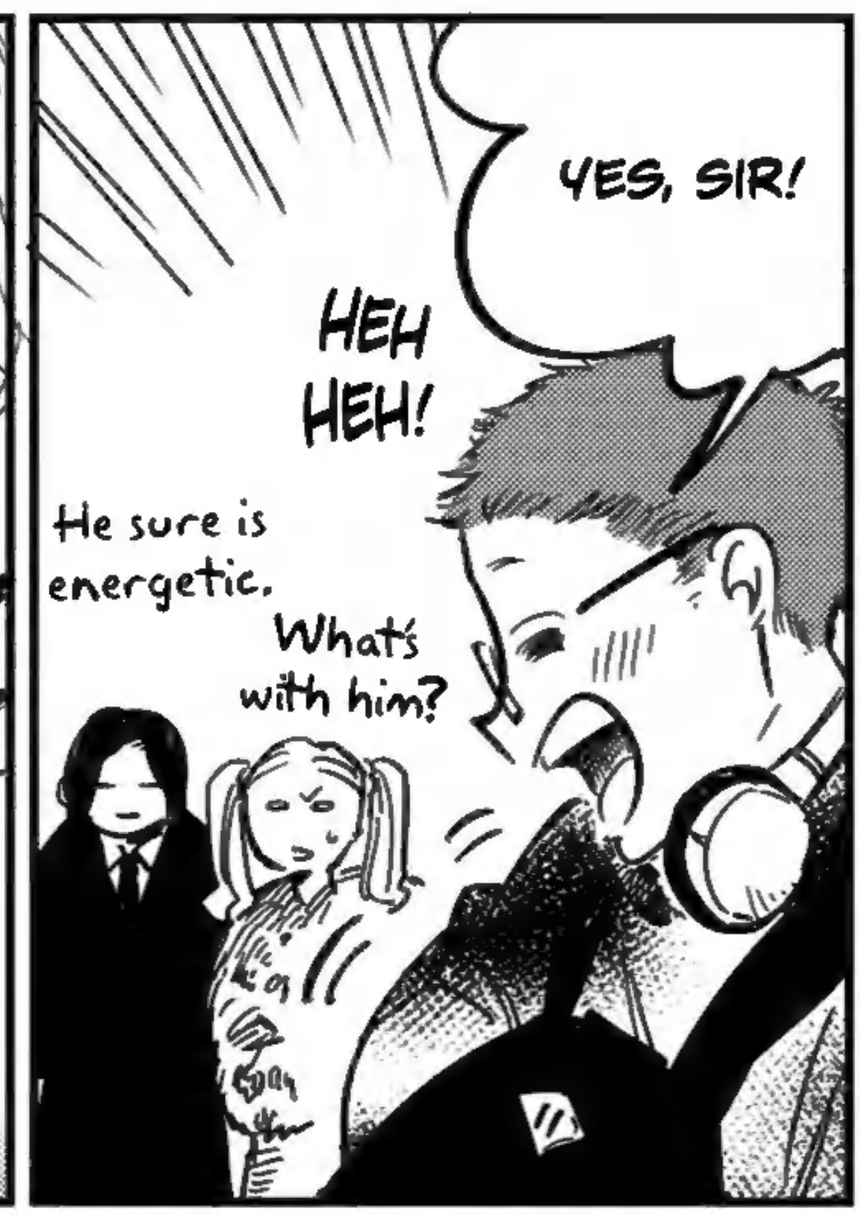
CAN YOU GET OUT THE GLOVES, RIKA?

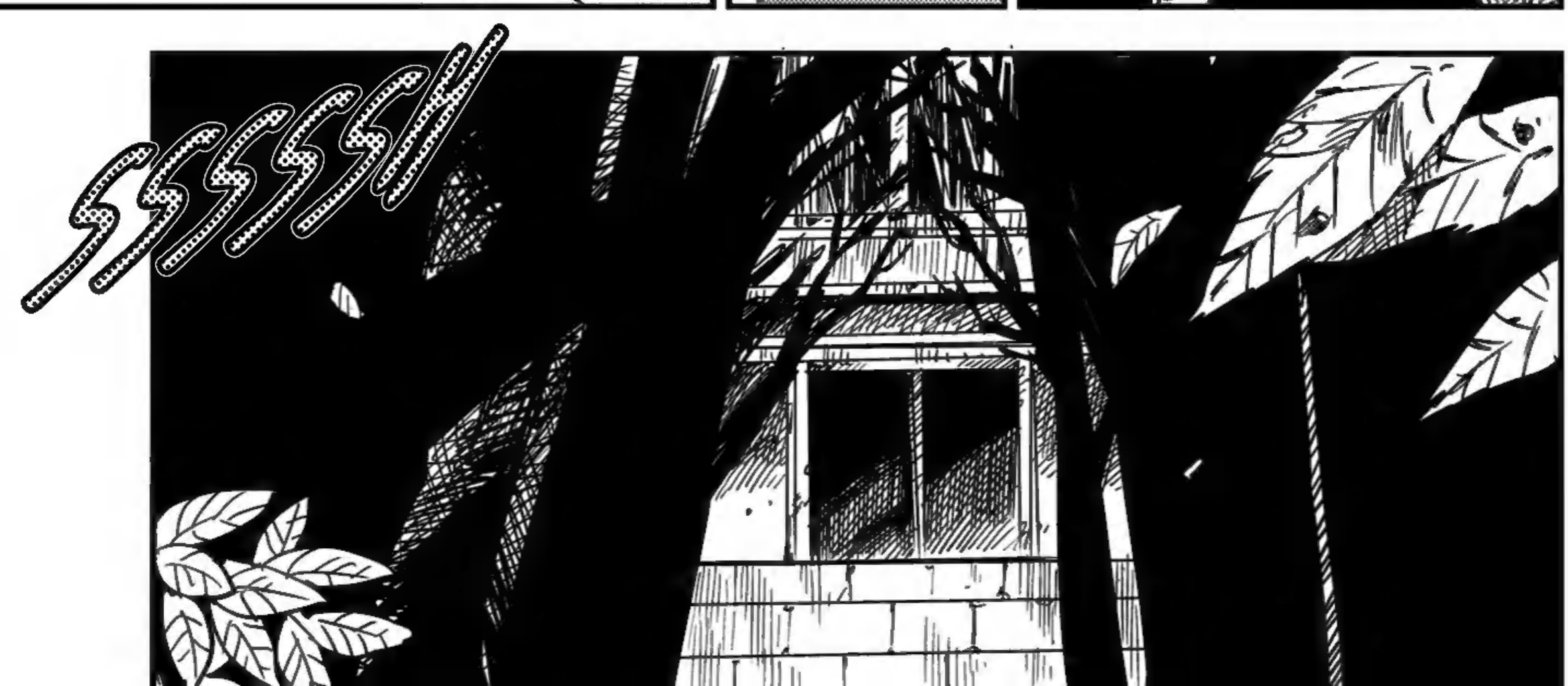
WELL, SINCE WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE,
LET'S LOOK AND SEE IF SOME -THING'S THERE.

I CAN HEAR IT FROM THE WINDOW IN MY ROOM.
IT MIGHT BE FROM AROUND HERE.

FWI

Heh heh...

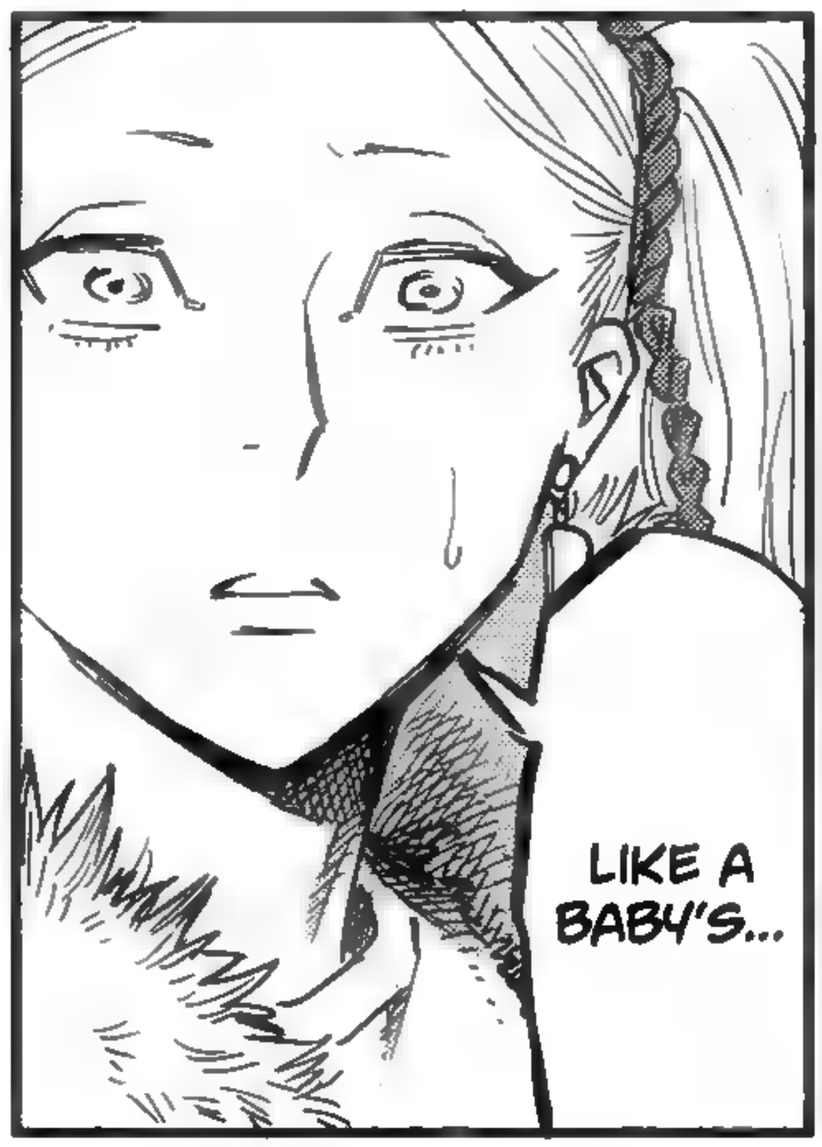

YES, SIR!
HEH HEH!
He sure is energetic.
What's with him?


SSSSSS

WOULD YOU NORMALLY THROW AWAY A BATHTUB?
OH.

UNBELIEVABLE. ALL THIS ILLEGAL DUMPING.

USED CONDOMS...


LIKE A BABY'S...

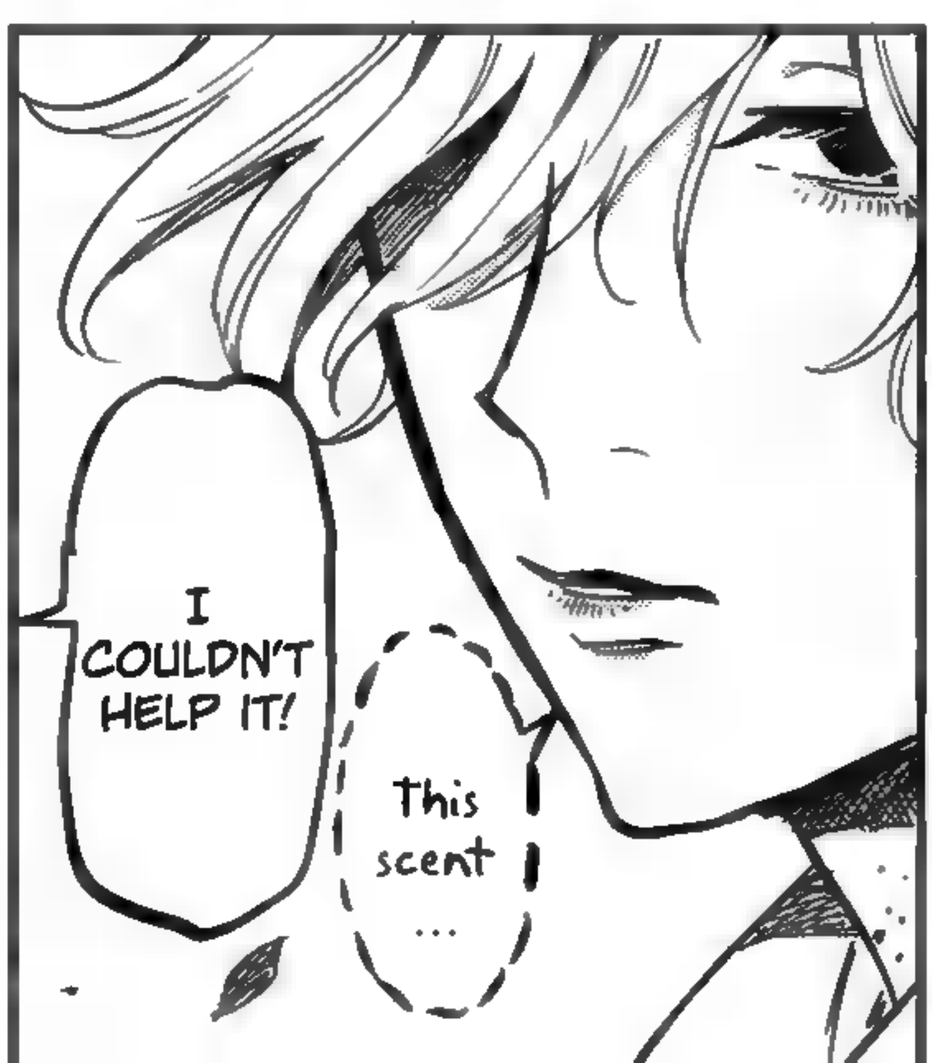
AND A LOT OF THEM.
OH.
WHAT KIND OF CRYING VOICE WAS IT, AGAIN?

...
haha.

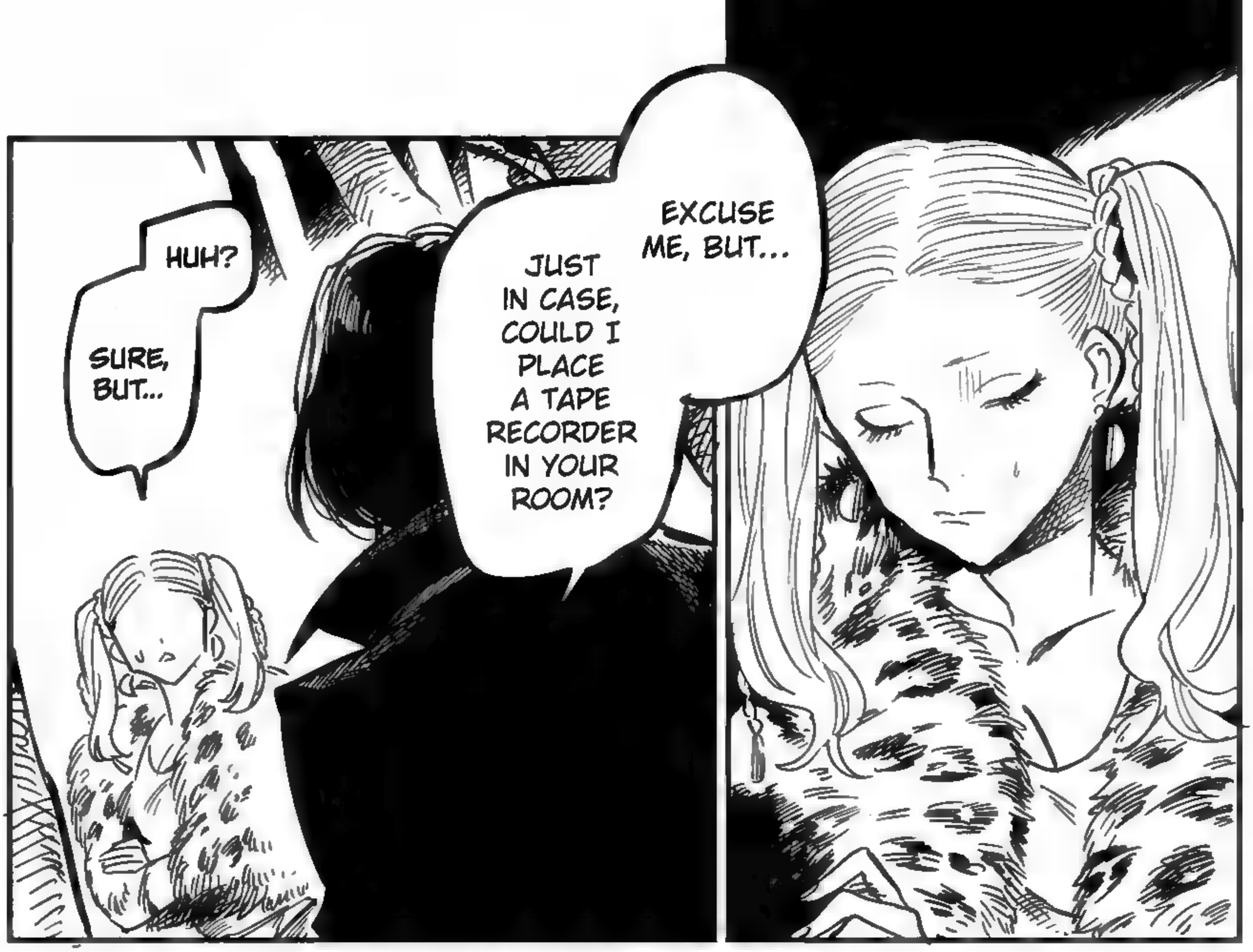
Wasn't it heavy breathing?

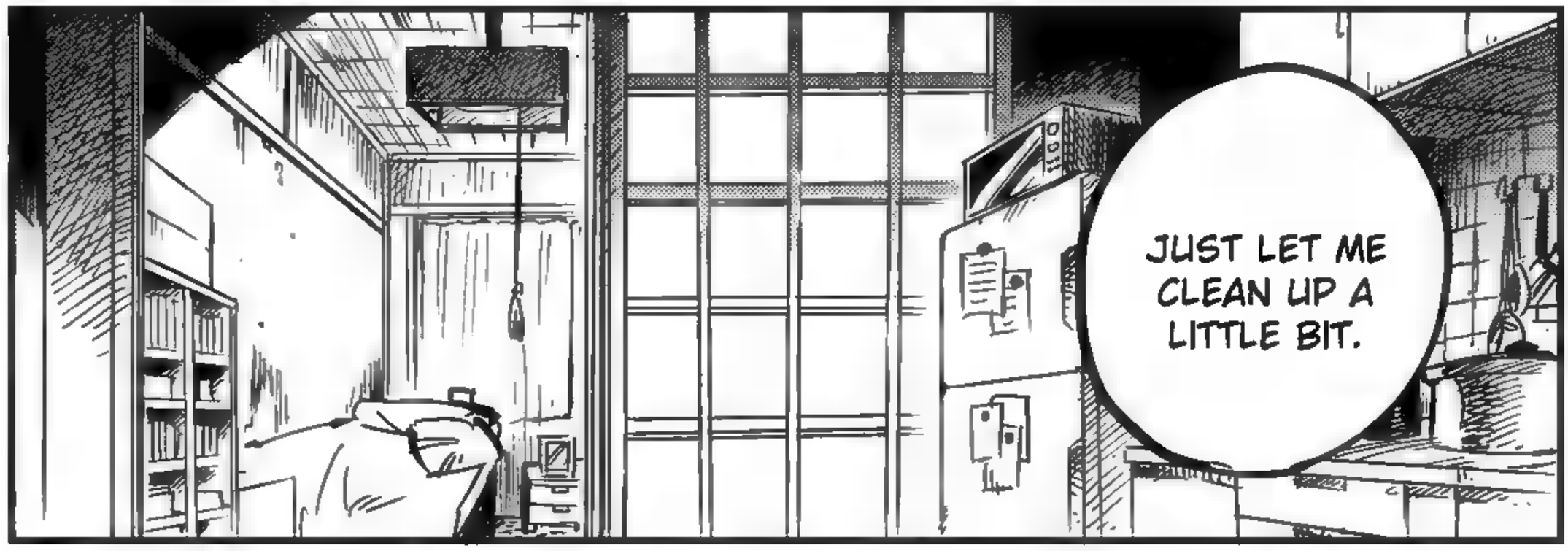
I WAS JUST TRICKED BY THE ATMOS -PHERE!
I COULDN'T HELP IT!

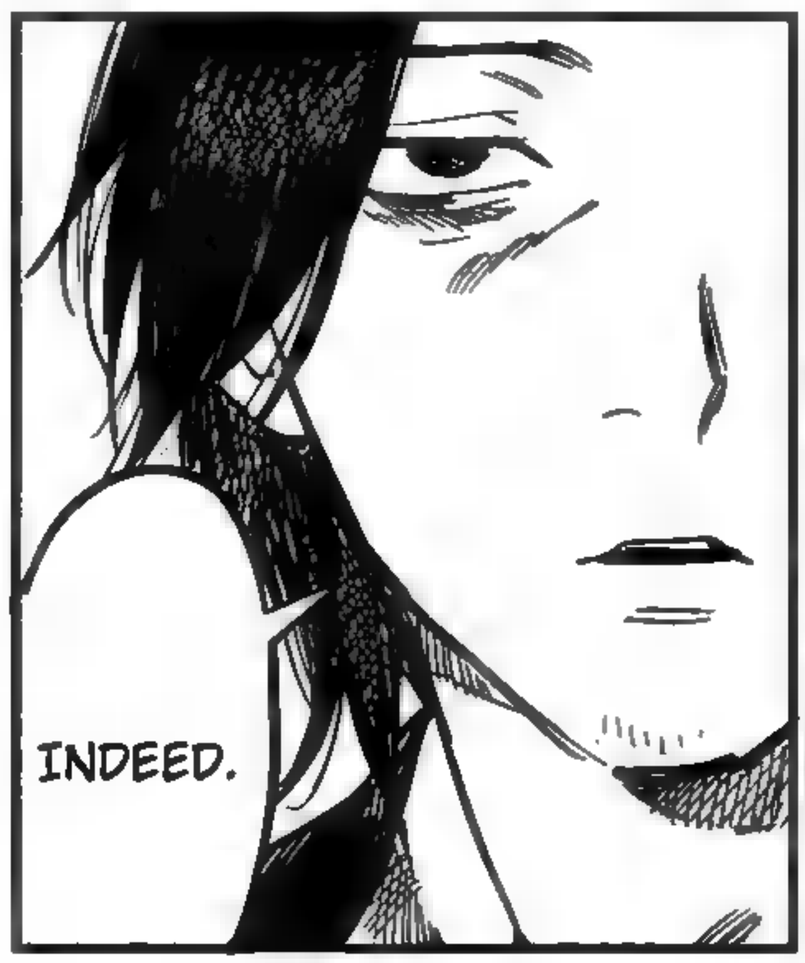
It sounded that way.
SHIT!
NOW YOU MENTION IT, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!
HAHA.


I COULDN'T HELP IT!
This scent ...

Waki-san.
Sorry for making you come all the way out here.
SERIOUSLY.


HUH?
SURE, BUT...
JUST IN CASE, COULD I PLACE A TAPE RECORDER IN YOUR ROOM?
EXCUSE ME, BUT...


JUST LET ME CLEAN UP A LITTLE BIT.


INDEED.

THOSE ARE LEFT-OVERS!
WOW! KINPIRA!
POP
I expect this'll be some good work!
DON'T OPEN IT!

...
HAHA!
THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL GOOD?
CREAK

LOOKS LIKE YOU'D BE A GOOD MOTHER.

HOSHI-HIKO.
Come here a minute.

WE CAN LET IT SIT BEHIND THE CURTAIN SO IT DOESN'T STAND OUT.
OKAY.

IS YOUR WINDOW FRAME WIDE ENOUGH FOR THE MACHINE TO PASS THROUGH?

THAT WAS DISAPPOINTING ...

SURE WAS.

MM-HM.

THANKS.

CALL ME ON MY CELL PHONE IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.

WE'LL BE GOING NOW.

WE'RE ALONE TO-GETHER...

WAKI -SAN.

Whoa.

HUH?!

Mm-hm.

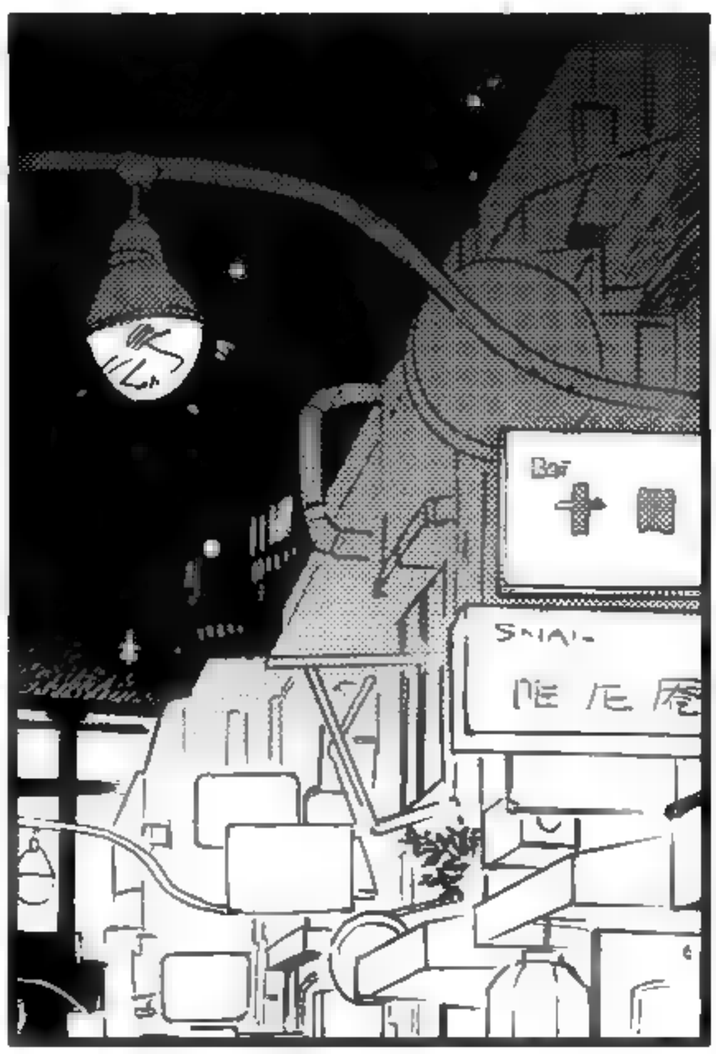
Good work.

I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO HERE.

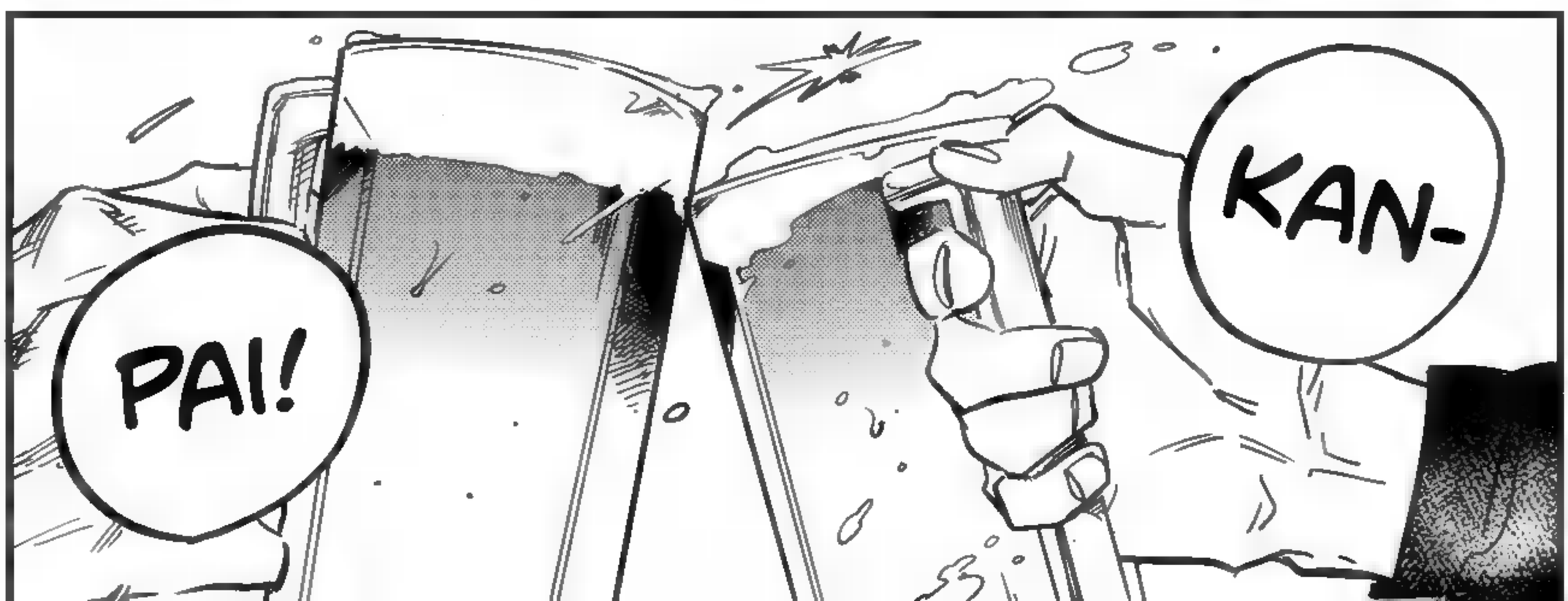
A-A-AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?

As my reward for finding the cat!
THAT WAS AWKWARD, EVEN FOR ME...

COULD WE GRAB DINNER...
ON OUR WAY HOME?



Well, if you don't have the time to spend with me...
FINE. LET'S GO.
YES, SIR!!!
AVGST
AVGST


PAI!
KAN-

Good work today!

Yeah.

WHAT THE HELL?!

IN MY MIND, YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR TEENS, RIKA.

YOU'RE ACTUALLY DRINKING.

I AM.

WHEN WE FIRST MET, I WAS STILL A MINOR.

That day...

When I confessed to my parents that I liked men...

WELL...

THOSE WERE THE DAYS.

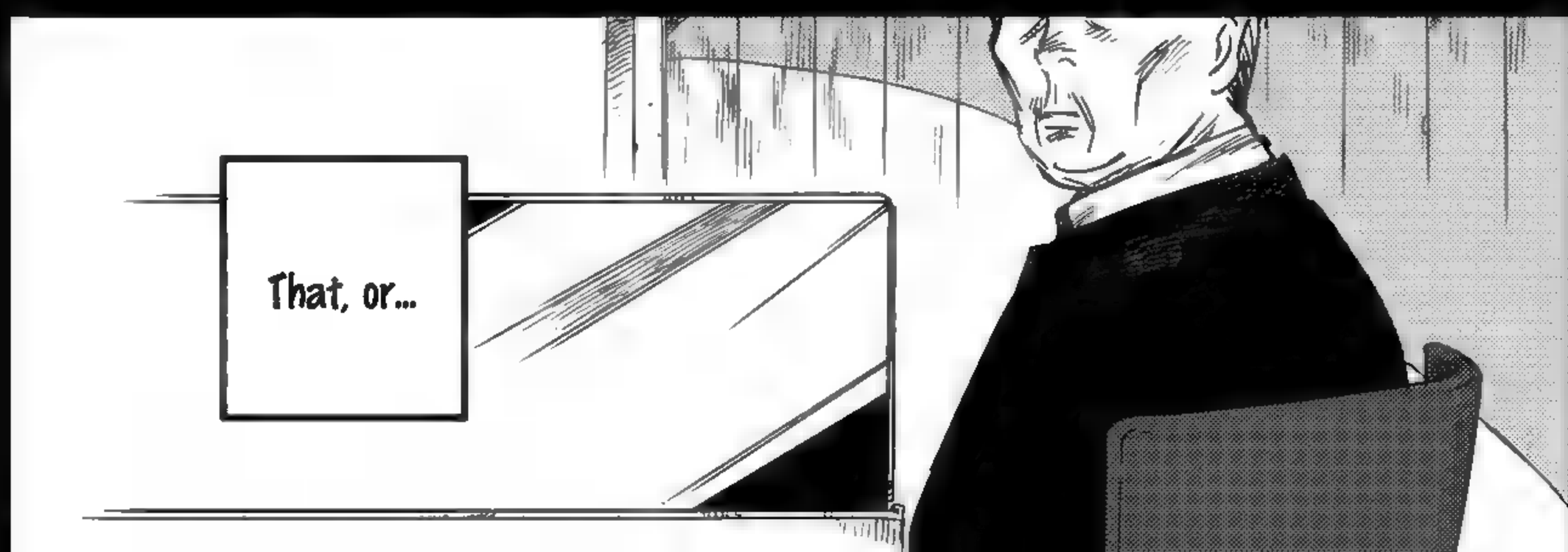
Is there no such thing as friendship ...?

Moriki, can I stay at your place tonight?
Sorry. I have work.
boop
Can I stay with you tonight?
My girfriend's coming :)
boop
boop
boop

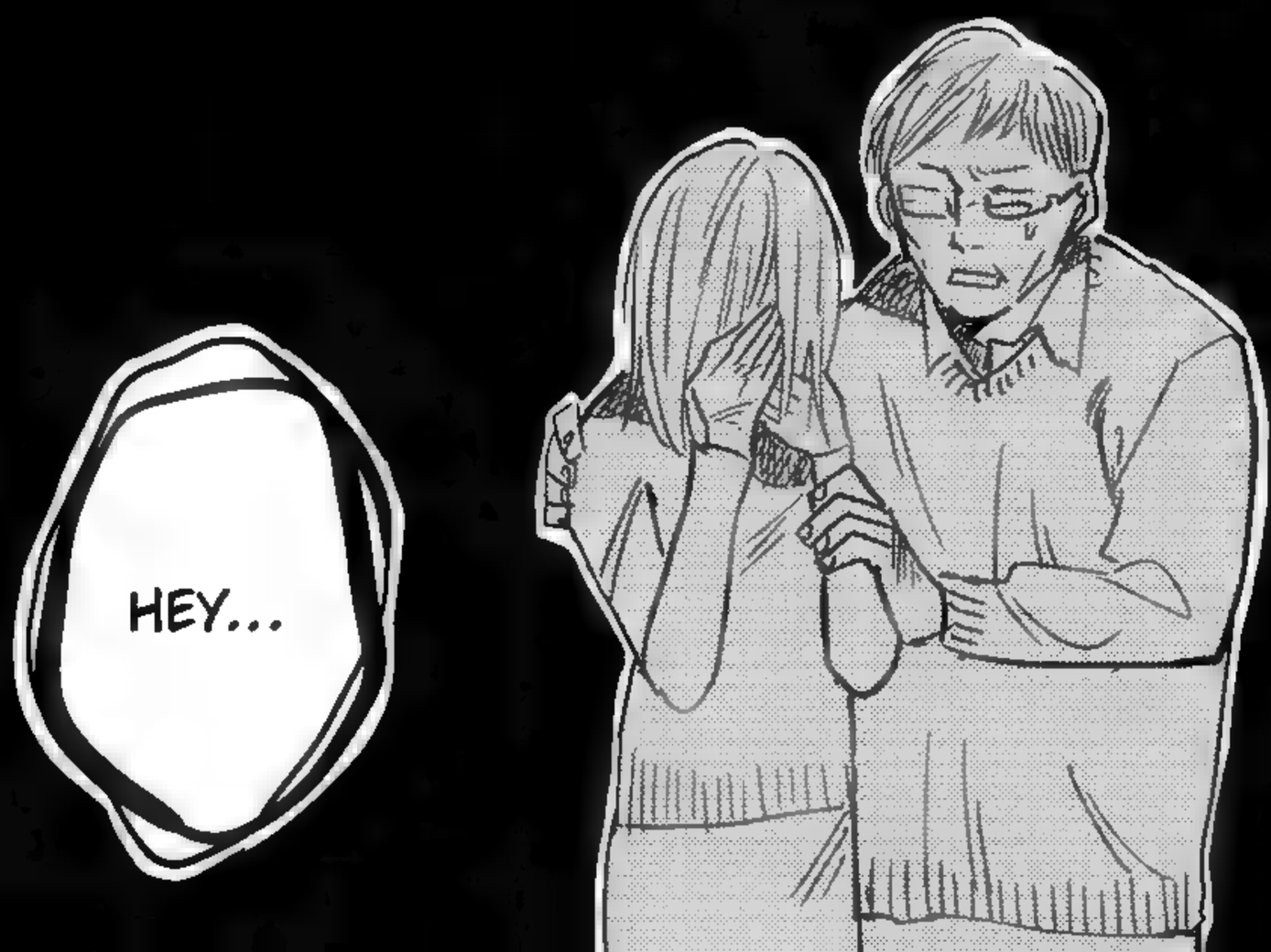
I was somehow so full of confidence that I was able to accept the hurt,
and left home in my late teens for the first time.

SHOULD I GO TO A HOME-LESS SHEL-TER...?

SLEEPING OUTSIDE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION ...
THIS IS NO GOOD.
I HAVE NO MONEY.
I'LL BE PUT INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY ...


That, or...

RATTLE


HEY...

DO YOU NEED MONEY?

OH.

click

click

click

DO YOU HAVE A LIGHTER?

I don't...

BWOOM

No...

TSK!

OH.
BLOW

BEFORE I COULD MAKE AN IRREVERSIBLE DECISION, YOU INTRODUCED ME TO THIS JOB.
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR THAT.
YOU MAKE QUITE A FILTHY SIGHT IN A FAMILY RESTAURANT.

CHATTER
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
I GO SOMETIMES ...
JUST TO SHOW I'M DOING WELL.
DO YOU EVER GO BACK HOME?
CHATTER
HAS IT ALREADY BEEN TWO YEARS?
IT WENT BY LIKE IT WAS NOTHING.

THERE'VE BEEN TIMES WHEN WE HAVE, THOUGH.
OH, NOW YOU MENTION IT, I ASKED THIS BEFORE, BUT...
HM?
HMM...
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS ALREADY.
TEN YEARS ...?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU AND THE CHIEF BEEN AT THE AGENCY?
HMM...
NOT LATELY.
DO YOU AND THE CHIEF EVER GO OUT FOR DRINKS, WAKI-SAN?

WHY DID I...?

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS LINE OF WORK, WAKI-SAN?

OH!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE DOES HOSHIHIKO-SAN LIVE?

IS THE CHIEF THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS?
Waki-san doesn't really talk much about himself...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T KNOW.
It might be because I'm just a kid, but...
I HAVEN'T FOUND HIS RESUME, EITHER...
AHAHA!

WAKI-SAN...

HE'S INTERESTING ...
THAT HOSHIHI-KO.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HOSHIHIKO-SAN?
Oh.
WHAT DO I THINK ...?

YOU ALWAYS LOOK LIKE YOU'RE JOKING,
BUT I...

I'm drunk.

SAKE

LOVE YOU, WAKI-SAN.

...isn't that a little stingy?
No ...
MELTING

THANK YOU.

YOU'VE NEVER SPOKEN ABOUT IT...
A woman...

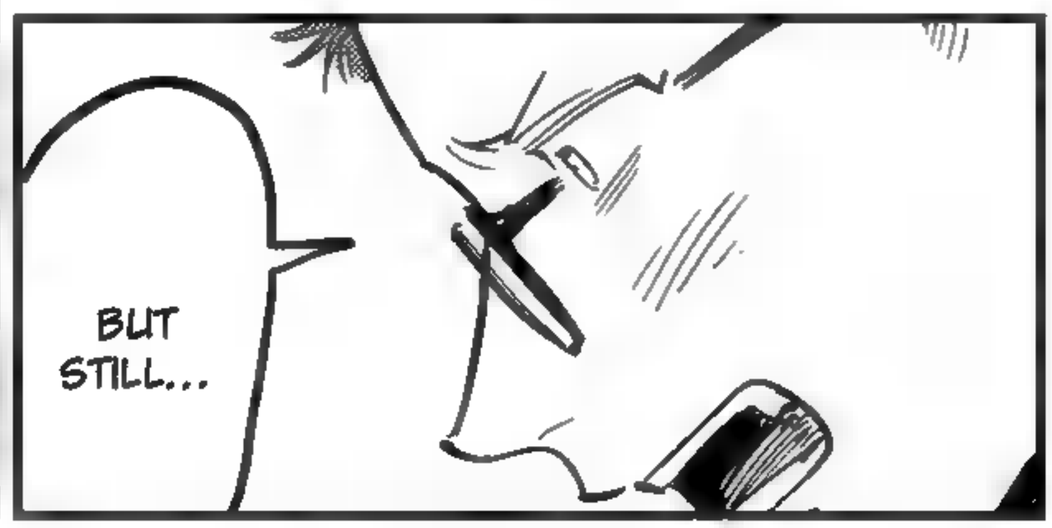
I SETTLED DOWN IN A HOME WITH A WOMAN FOR SOME TIME, BUT...
I'VE NEVER GONE OUT WITH ANYONE.
HUH?

PROFESS-IONALS.
HUH?!

Huh? So what about now...?
I WAS YOUNG.
B-but... you had sex...

I WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU.

YOU SEE?
I'M HOPELESS.


BUT STILL...

...OKAY.

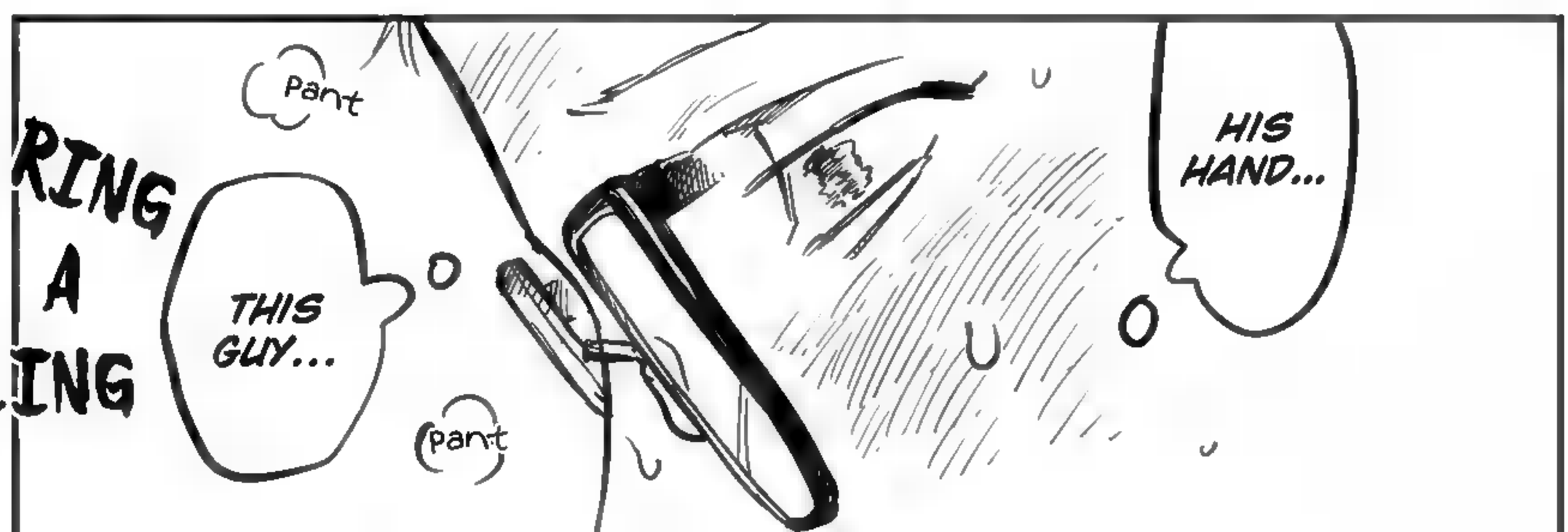
I JUST THOUGHT... WHY NOT?
HUH?!
WHY?!
HUH?!

RIGHT...
NGH

MM.
SWIP
HIS HAND?!

MUMBLE
How about kissing ...?
Then...
MUMBLE
RING A LING

SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING ?
HUH ...?!


RING A LING
Pant
THIS GUY...
pant
HIS HAND...

YES, SIR!

MY CELL PHONE.

He's incredibly idiosyncratic...

It's ringing.

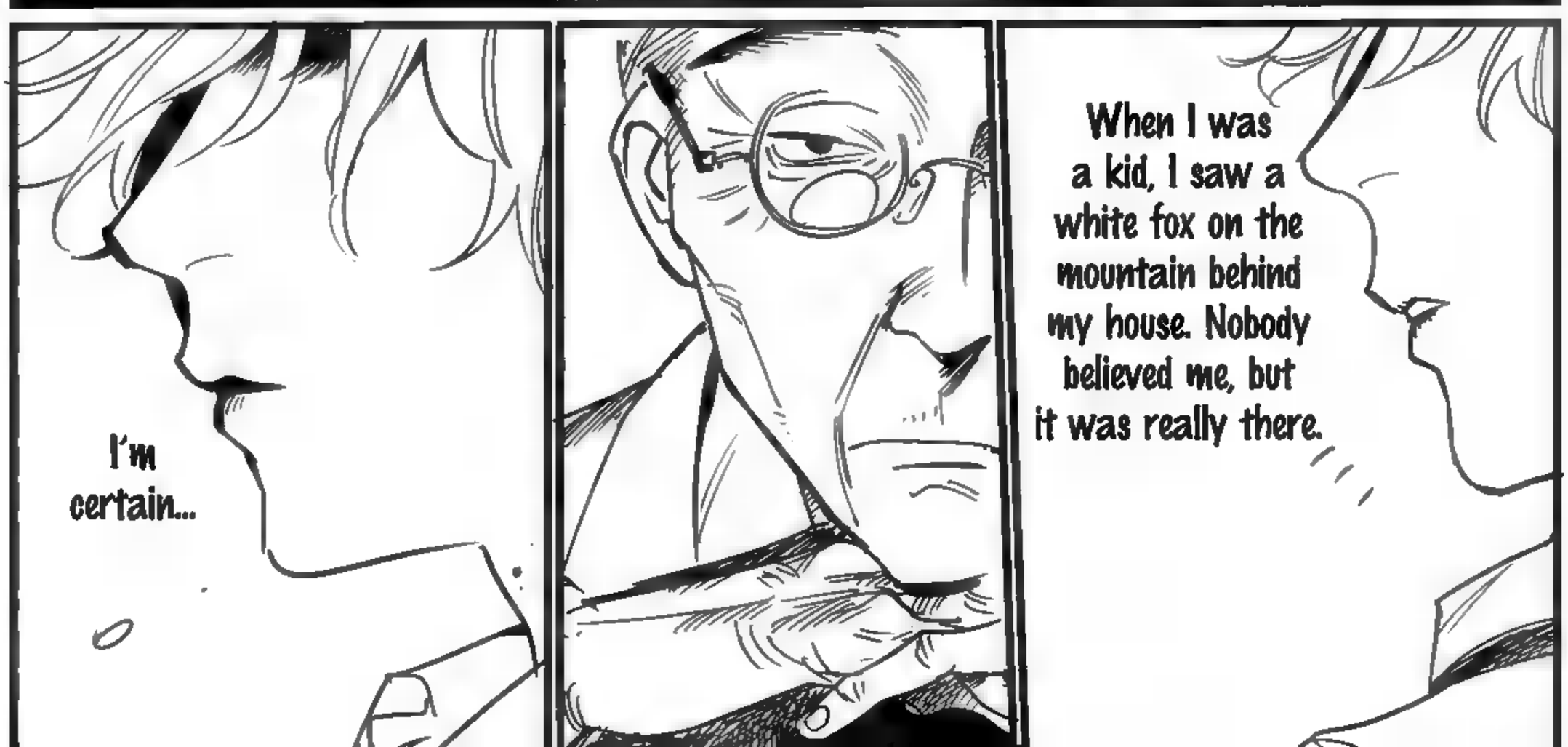
THE GHOST MADE AN APPEARANCE.
HUH?
AT THAT RUNDOWN APARTMENT HOUSE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HUUUUH ?!
CHAPTER 3/END

The Annals of the Strange Tales of the Daylight Detective

Chapter 4

Various things happen when people live long lives

Picking up abandoned kids, being haunted by ghosts...


I'm certain...
When I was a kid, I saw a white fox on the mountain behind my house. Nobody believed me, but it was really there.

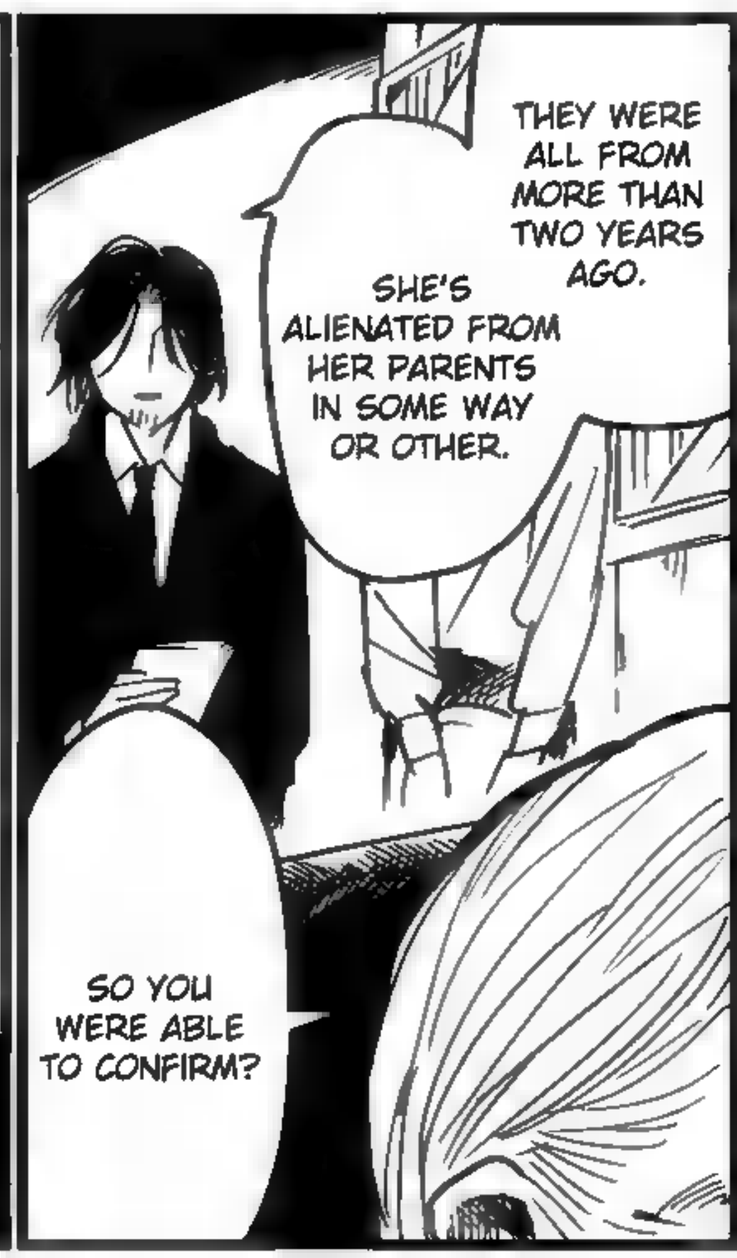
when the end comes into view, I'll be able to see everything.

The paths I've walked...

though they were covered in muck...

were they the paths I've walked?

HOSHIHIKO DID.


THEY WERE ALL FROM MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO.
SHE'S ALIENATED FROM HER PARENTS IN SOME WAY OR OTHER.
SO YOU WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM?

Ting -a -ling
A -ling
IN OTHER WORDS?

IT SEEMS WHEN YOU'RE NOT IN THE OFFICE, IT'S HARD FOR ANYONE BUT US TO SEE YOU.
CREAK
Ping
YES...
YOU CERTAINLY ARE USEFUL.
Hee hee!

INDEED.
OH.

IF RIKA HEARD THIS CONVERSATION, HE'D PROBABLY LAUGH.
tsk!
I died.

on the lower right?

YOU'RE EASY TO READ, WAKI.

What was he looking at...

I GUESS...

SO ABOUT THAT CASE, HOSHIHIKO SAYS IT'S THE GHOST OF AN UNBORN CHILD.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO SAYS IT LIKE THAT, BOSS.

IS THAT SO?

WELL, I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU SINCE YOU WERE A KID.

WHEN I INVESTIGATED THE ADDRESS OF THAT HOME, IT SEEMS THERE'S A SHRINE TO AN UNBORN CHILD ■ THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE

AN UNBORN CHILD? A CHILD'S GHOST.

YES.

BY THE SMELL.

WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT YET, BUT...

I KNOW.

THE MOTHER WAS DISINHERITED FOR ABORTING THE CHILD?

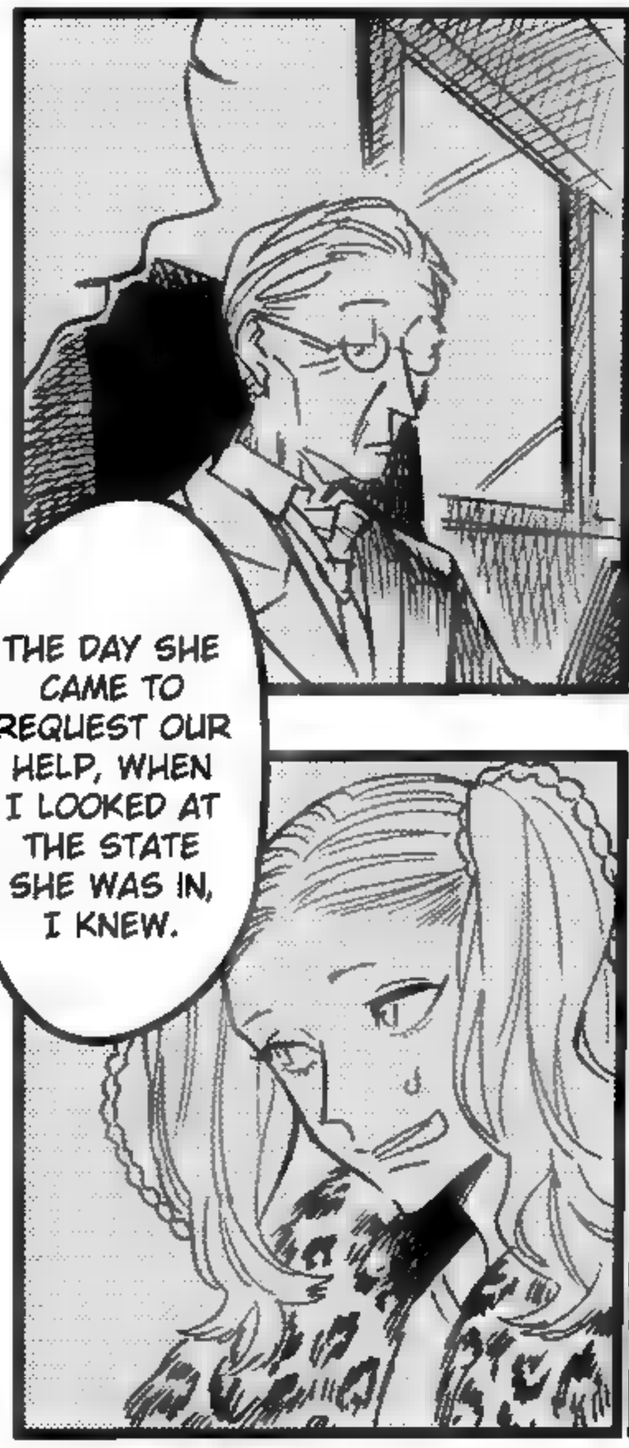
IT'S THE SMELL OF DEATH.

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE...

WE'RE DRAWN BY SMELLS.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE PERSON CLOAKED IN THAT SMELL. THEY'RE POSSESSED.

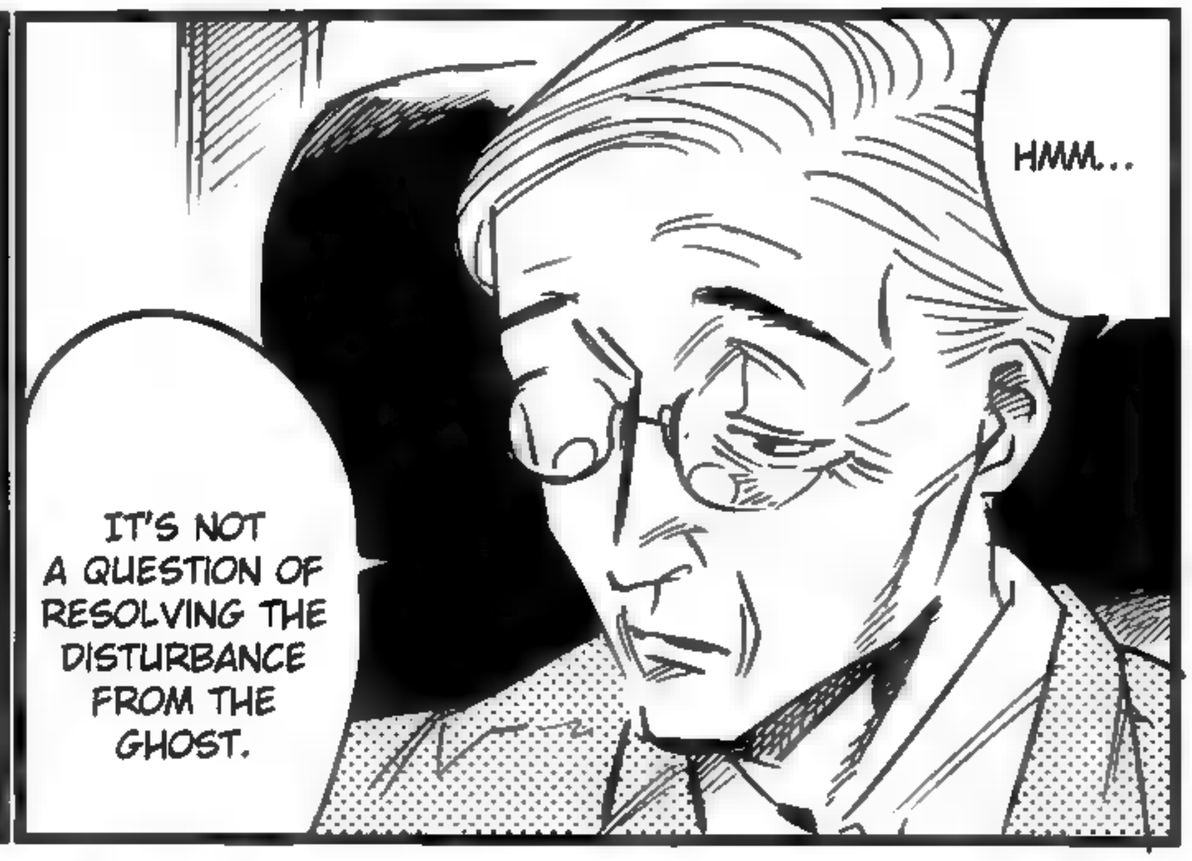
I SEE. IF YOU SAY IT'S SO EASY TO UNDERSTAND...


THE DAY SHE CAME TO REQUEST OUR HELP, WHEN I LOOKED AT THE STATE SHE WAS IN, I KNEW.

SO... MAI, WAS THAT THE GIRL'S NAME?
SHE HASN'T TOLD HER HUSBAND... NO, HER BOYFRIEND, IT SEEMS.
THAT'S ...

...

THIS IS ...


HMM...
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF RESOLVING THE DISTURBANCE FROM THE GHOST.

?
THAT WOULD BE GOOD.

...
stare

14:00
Kinoshita-sama
THIS AFTERNOON WE'LL BE MEETING WITH THE CLIENT, SO DO YOU WANT TO BE THERE, CHIEF?

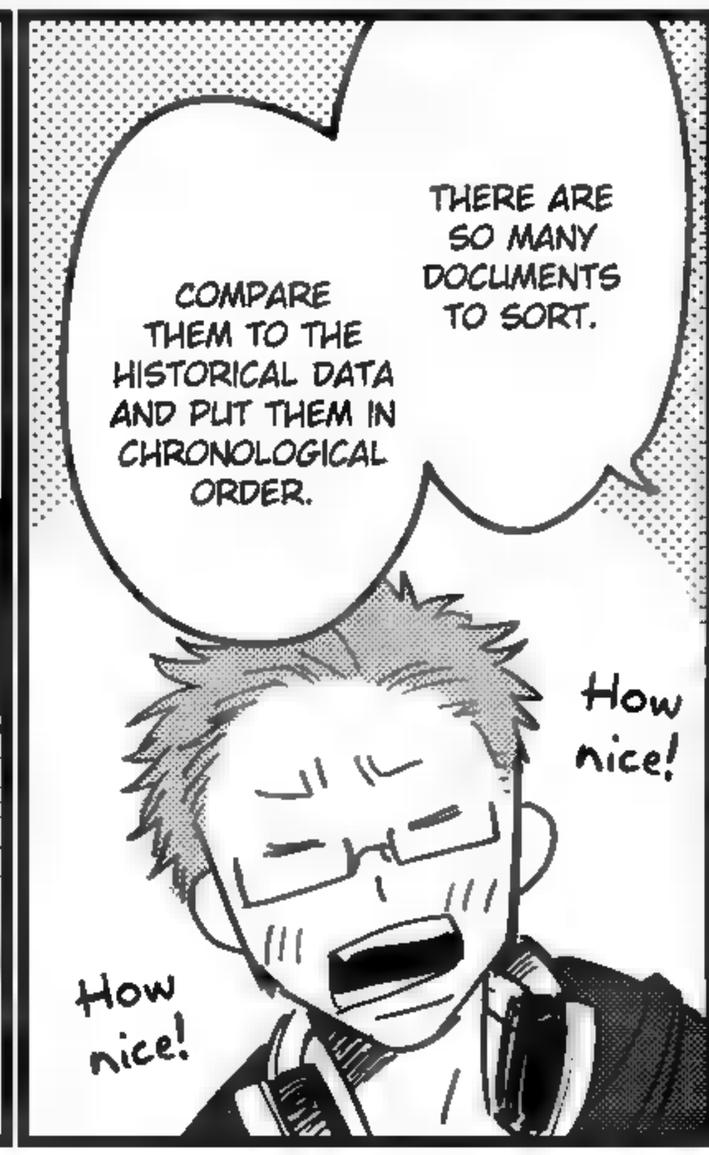
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
HE'S ABOUT TO GET TO DO SOMETHING BESIDES RESEARCH.

IS RIKA COMING TODAY?
THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN HIS CLASSES ARE OVER, JUST PAST NOON,
PROB-ABLY.

SIGH ...

A TRIP TO YAMA-GATA?!
WITH THE CHIEF AND WAKI SAN?!
IT'S AN INVESTIGA -TION.
AND THE CLIENT.

DON'T CONFUSE THEM WITH THE BILLS AND THROW THEM OUT.
WHY DO I SUDDENLY HAVE TO DO THIS MAJOR CLEAN-UP?


THERE ARE SO MANY DOCUMENTS TO SORT.
COMPARE THEM TO THE HISTORICAL DATA AND PUT THEM IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.
How nice!
How nice!

HUH...? THAT'S FINE, BUT...
WILL YOU STAY BEHIND AND WATCH THE OFFICE?

SIGH...

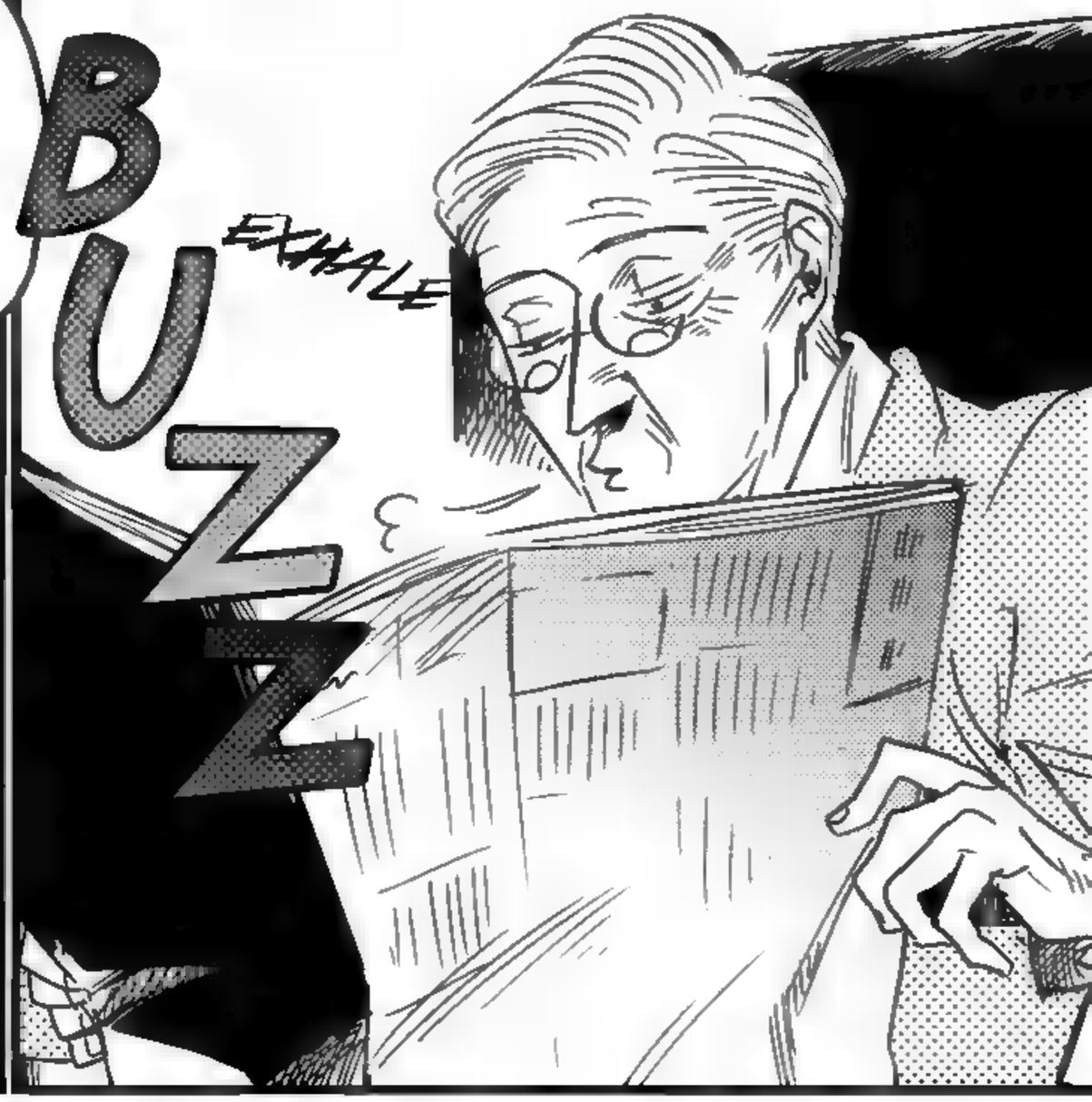
IT'S A GOOD USE OF FREE TIME.

...
SIGH

GLANCE

LET ME DO THE TALKING.

OH, THAT MUST ME MAI-SAN.
I'LL GET IT.
Thanks.
WAKI.


BUZZ
EXHALE

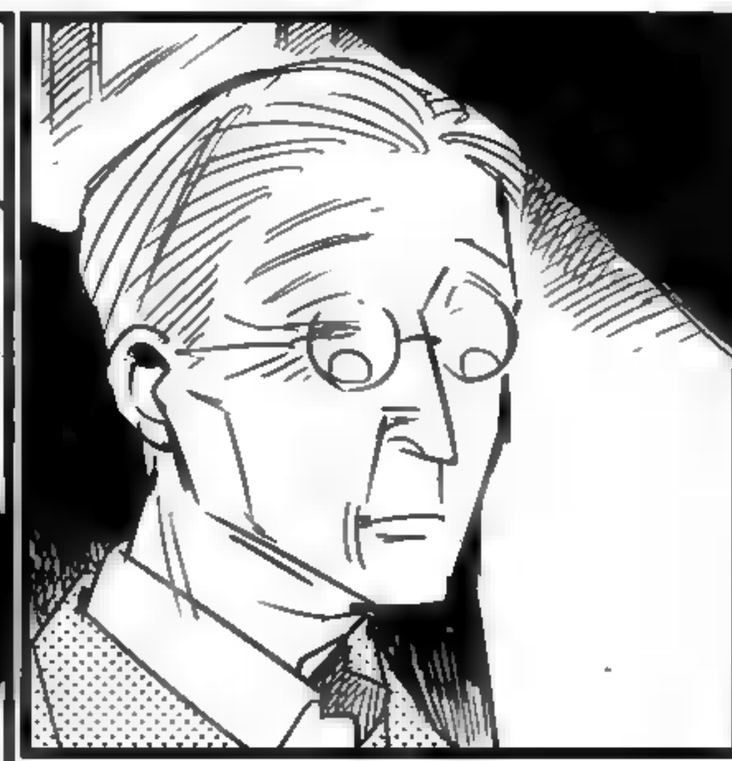
HUH?

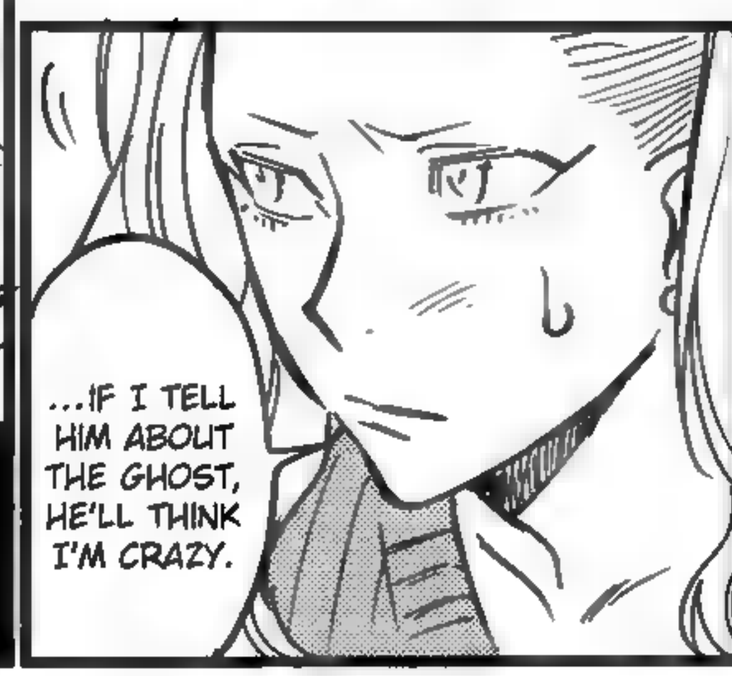
...YES.

The ghost...
I MEAN, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT TO MY BOYFRIEND.

TO YAMAGATA?
WHY?

BUT YOU'RE SUFFERING.




...IF I TELL HIM ABOUT THE GHOST, HE'LL THINK I'M CRAZY.

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM?

SO?

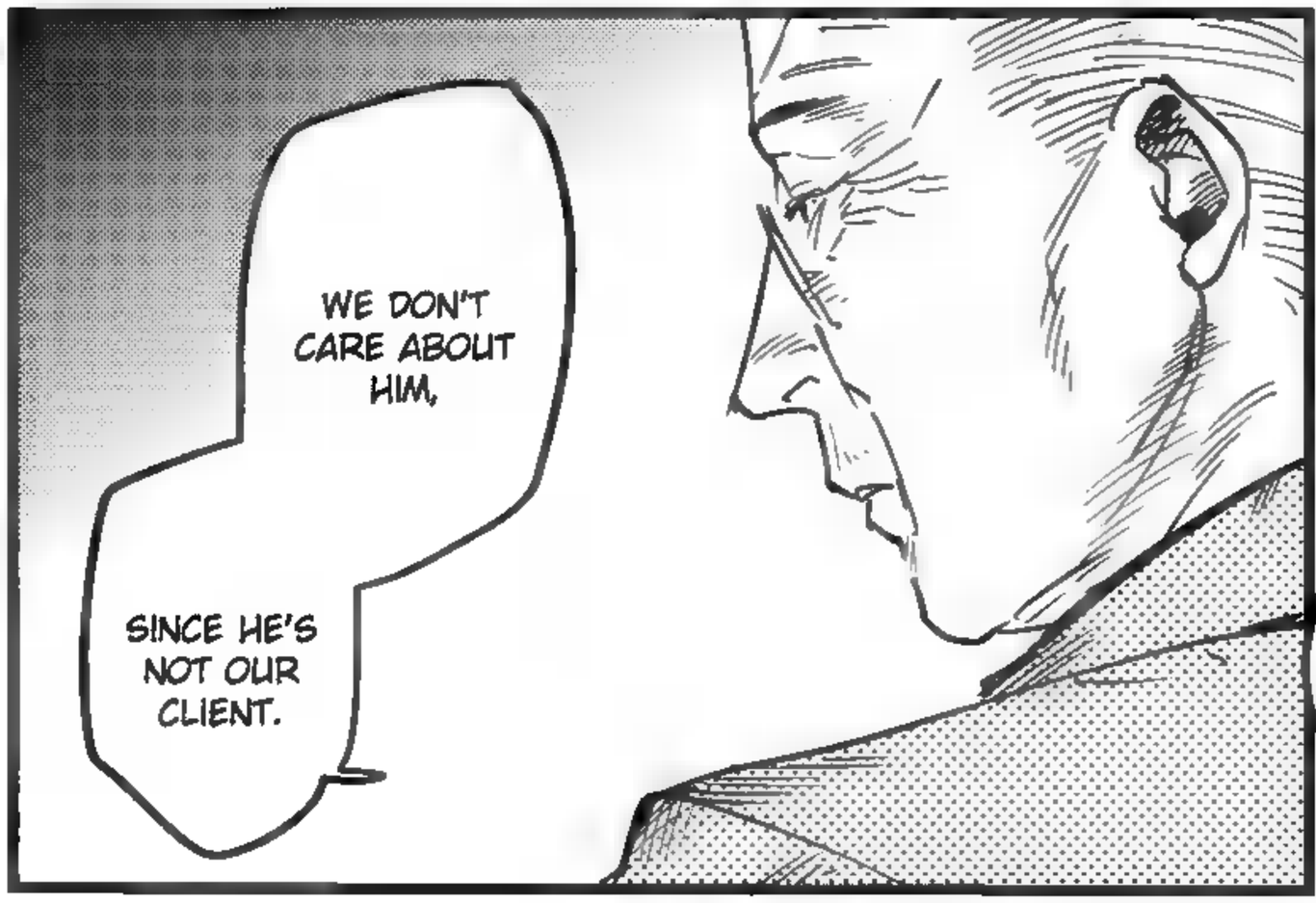
IN YAMAGATA... WHERE YOUR HOME IS, THERE'S A FAMOUS SHRINE TO AN ABORTED CHILD.

WE WANT TO RESOLVE YOUR CASE,
SO...

IN ORDER TO RESOLVE YOUR CASE...
WE'LL GO TO YAMAGATA TOMORROW. SHALL WE?
WE'LL VISIT THAT SHRINE.
WE HAVE TO LAY...
ALL THE CARDS ON THE TABLE.
... ENOUGH.
CLATTER
YOU HAVEN'T COMMITTED A CRIME, HAVE YOU?
Huh?
LISTEN, YOUNG LADY.
I'M LEAVING.

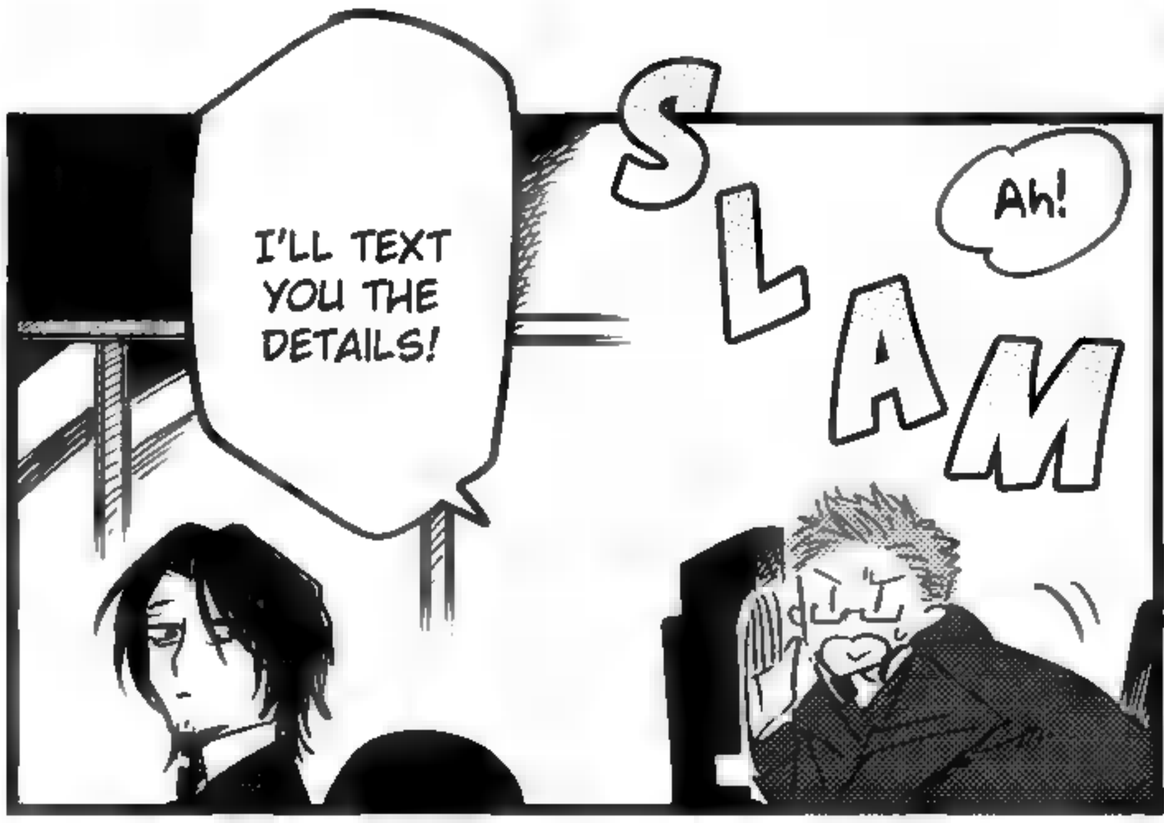
YOU'RE THE CLIENT.

LET US RESOLVE THIS.


WE DON'T CARE ABOUT HIM,
SINCE HE'S NOT OUR CLIENT.

WE'LL LEAVE YOUR BOYFRIEND OUT OF IT FOR NOW.

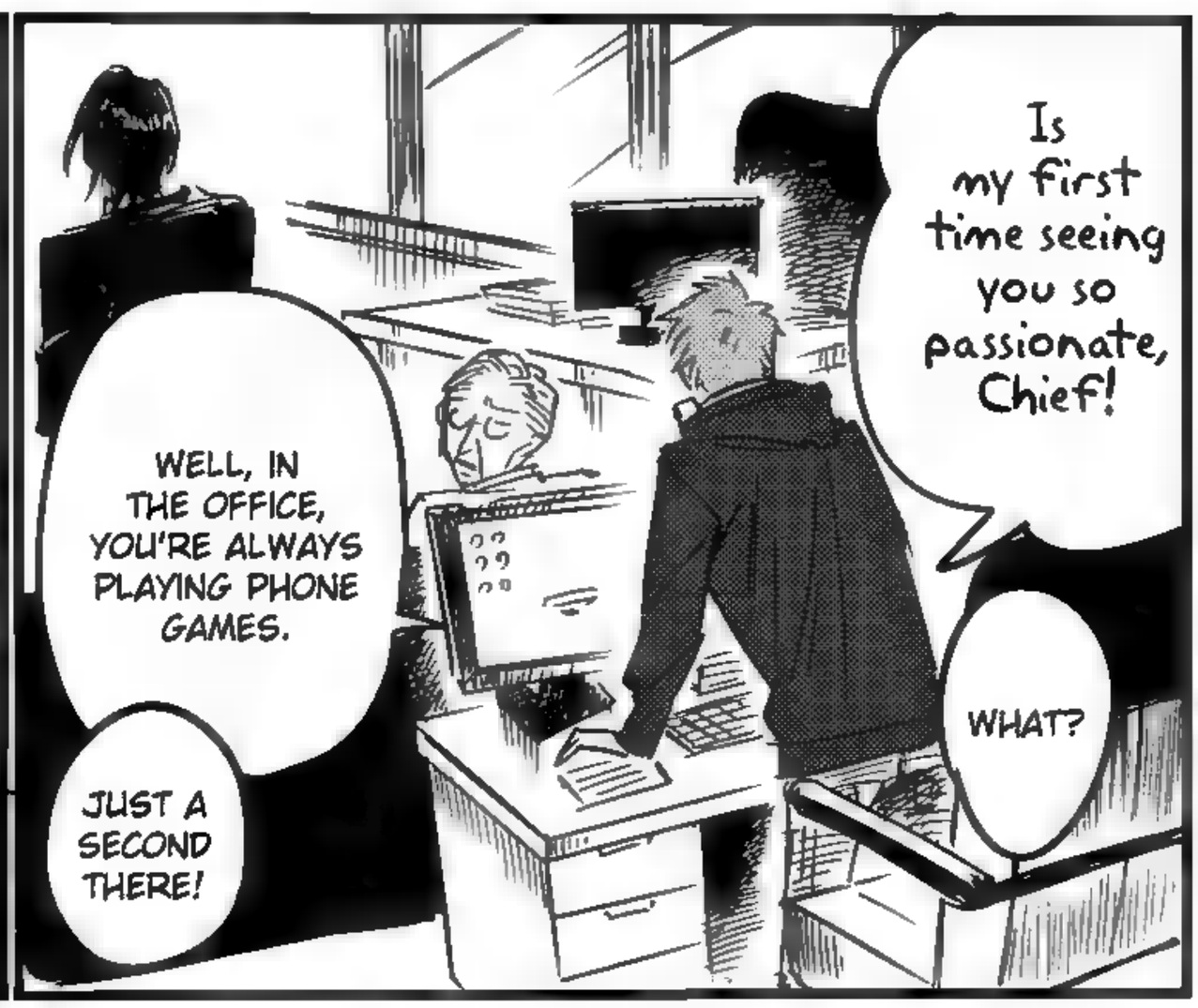
THINK IT OVER TONIGHT.


I'LL TEXT YOU THE DETAILS!
SLAM
Ah!

PULL

THIS...

WAKI-SAN, HAVE YOU SEEN IT BEFORE?
THE CHIEF GETTING EXCITED ABOUT A JOB?
DON'T JUST SAY WHATEVER YOU FEEL LIKE!


Is my first time seeing you so passionate, Chief!
WELL, IN THE OFFICE, YOU'RE ALWAYS PLAYING PHONE GAMES.
WHAT?
JUST A SECOND THERE!

THUMP
OKAY...

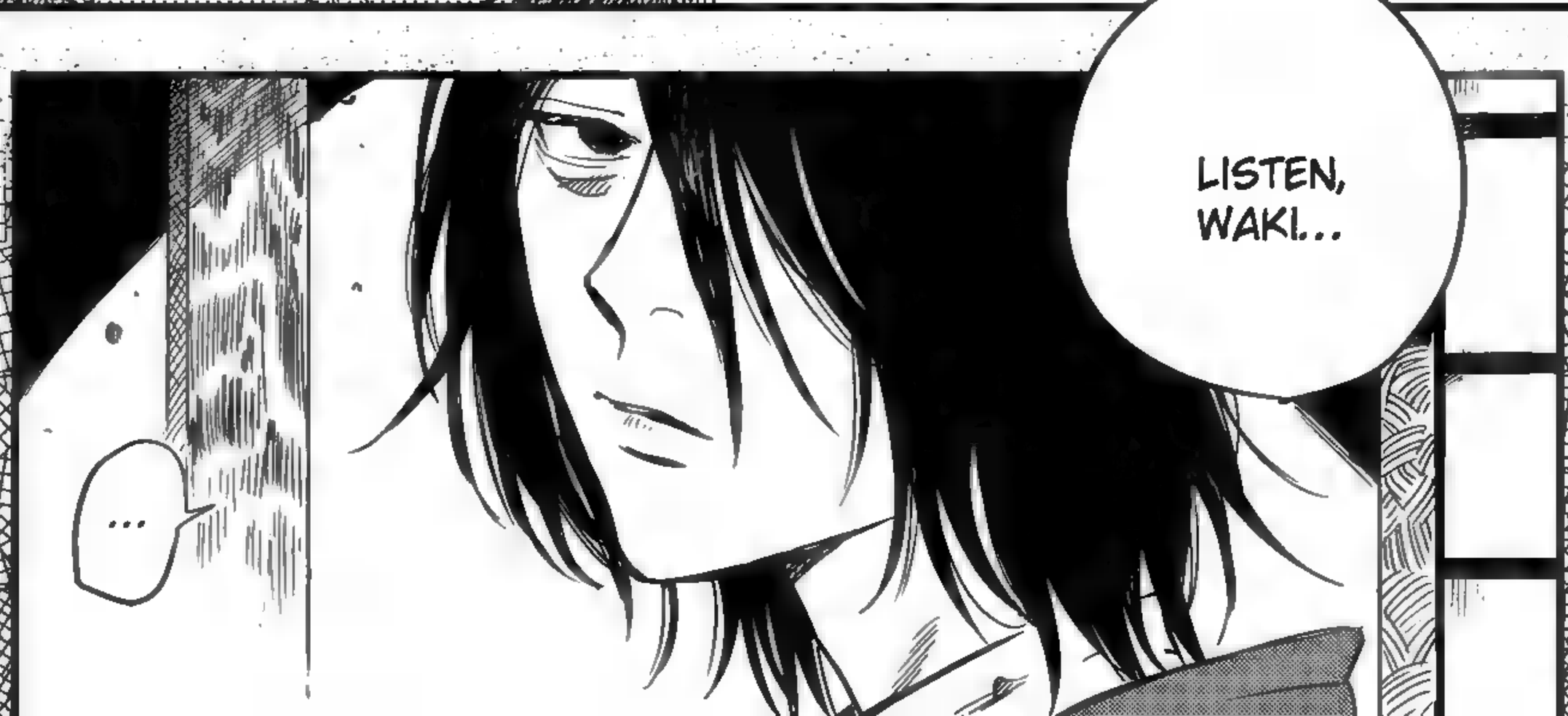
OH...
WHO KNOWS...?
I'M GOING OUT FOR SMOKES.

Is it okay like this, Waki?

The expression on your face says you're

Hey, hey.

Well, you've always been like this.


LISTEN, WAKI...
...

YEAH, SURE

CAN I USE THE PLAYSTATION?

YOU CAN STAY OUT OVERNIGHT WITHOUT PERMISSION, BUT DON'T COME TO MY PLACE.

YOU STILL DON'T HAVE PERMISSION FROM THE HOME.

beep

ping

DING DING DING

SIP

BLOW...
HMM...

YEAH.
I WANT TO LIVE ON MY OWN.

FWOOM
ARE YOU GOING TO WORK WHEN YOU LEAVE MIDDLE SCHOOL?

OH? WELL...
I HAVEN'T GONE FOR TEN YEARS...

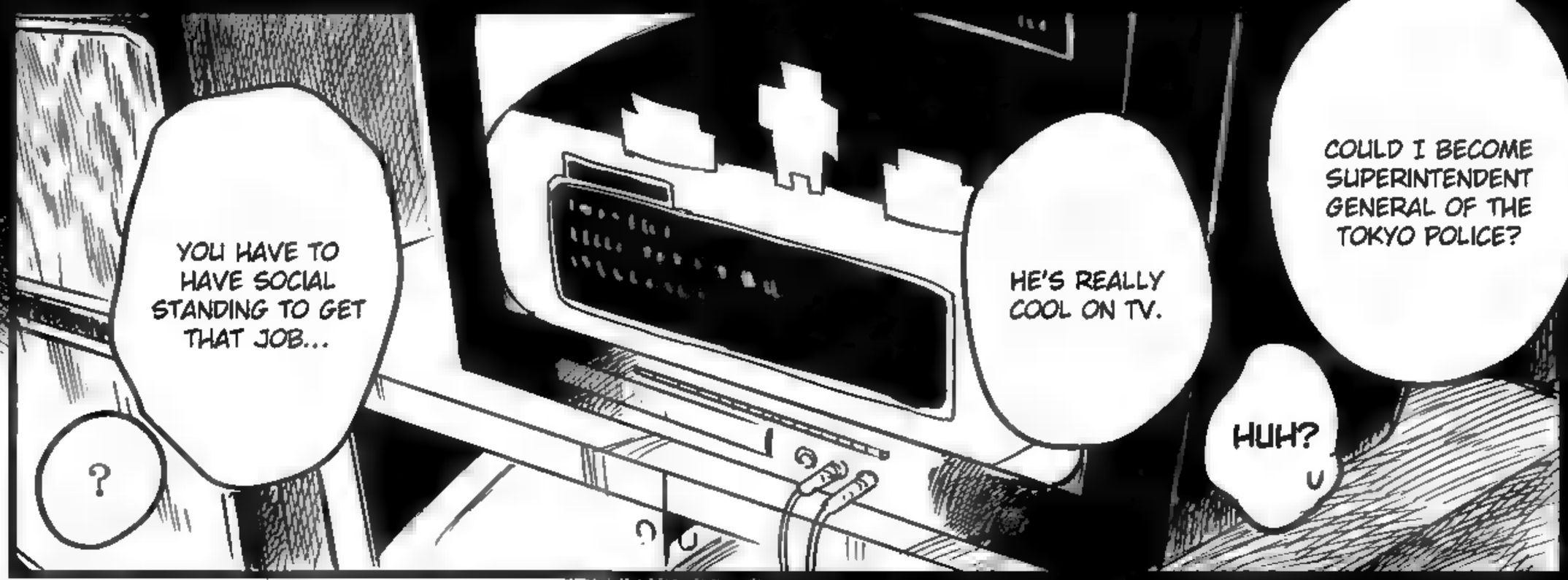
SHINONOME -SAN
HAVE YOU EVER VISITED YOUR PARENTS' GRAVE?

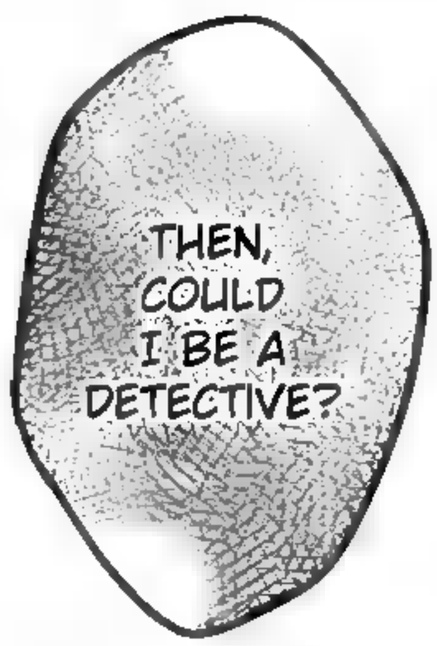
WELL...

...IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

YOU'RE THE SAME AS ME.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT? THEY WERE MY PARENTS, AFTER ALL.


YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOCIAL STANDING TO GET THAT JOB...
?
HE'S REALLY COOL ON TV.
COULD I BECOME SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL OF THE TOKYO POLICE?
HUH?


THEN, COULD I BE A DETECTIVE?

LOTS HAPPEN WHEN YOU BECOME AN ADULT.
BLOW

TO CREATE A WORLD THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ADULTS LIKE THAT.

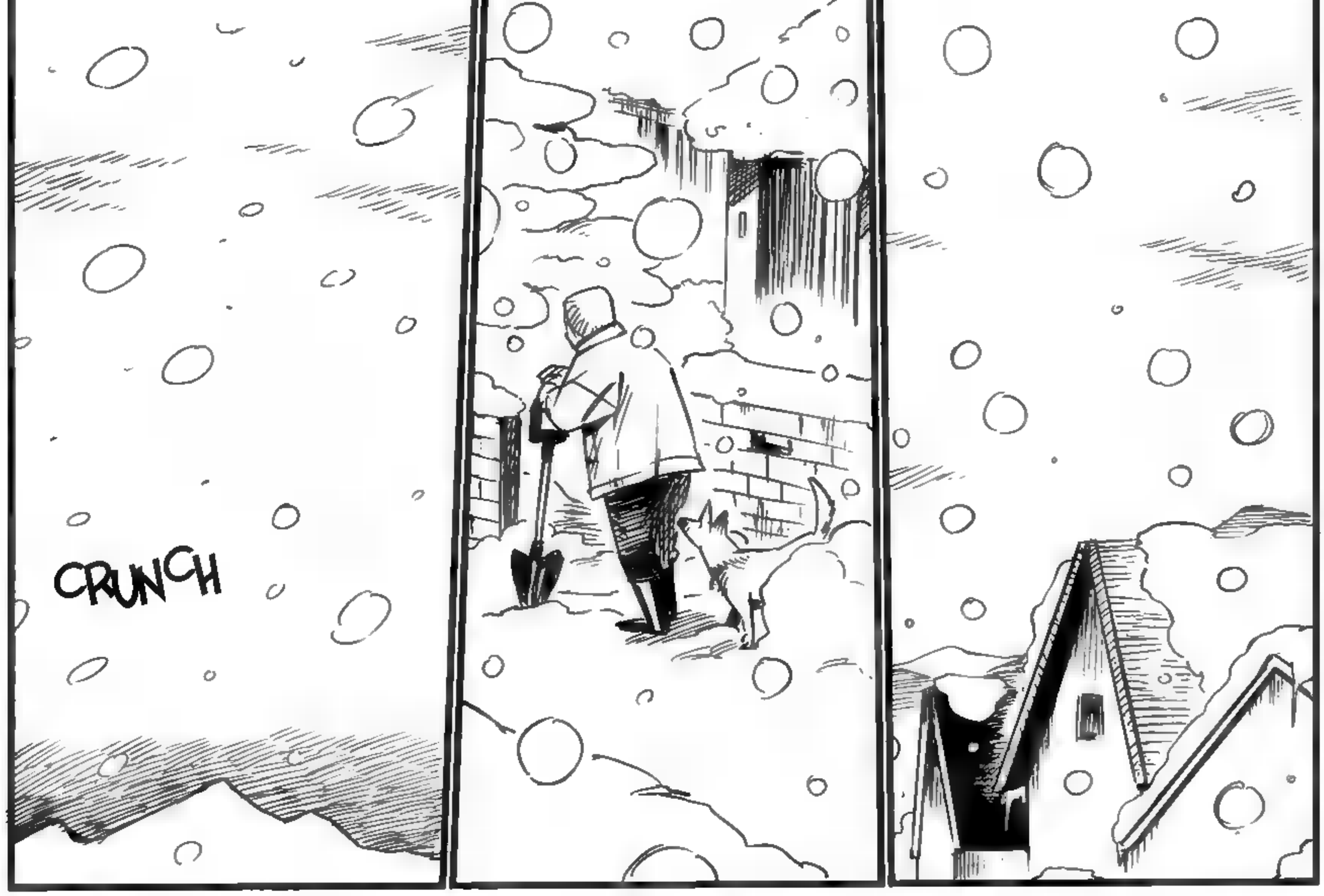
ON TV, THEY ALWAYS TAKE THE SIDE OF ORDINARY PEOPLE,

AND THEY WANT TO HELP PEOPLE IN TROUBLE.

I FEEL CALLED...

SIZZLE

DON'T BE SO CHEEKY.


CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CRUNCH
INDEED.
IT'S BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO HIDE THAT SHE'S THE CLIENT...
SO COLD.
YES, SHE DID.
SHE CAME ALONE, HUH?

CAN WE GO IN HERE?

MOUNTAIN COFFEE HOUSE

YESTERDAY, MY BOYFRIEND SAID HE WANTED TO BREAK UP.

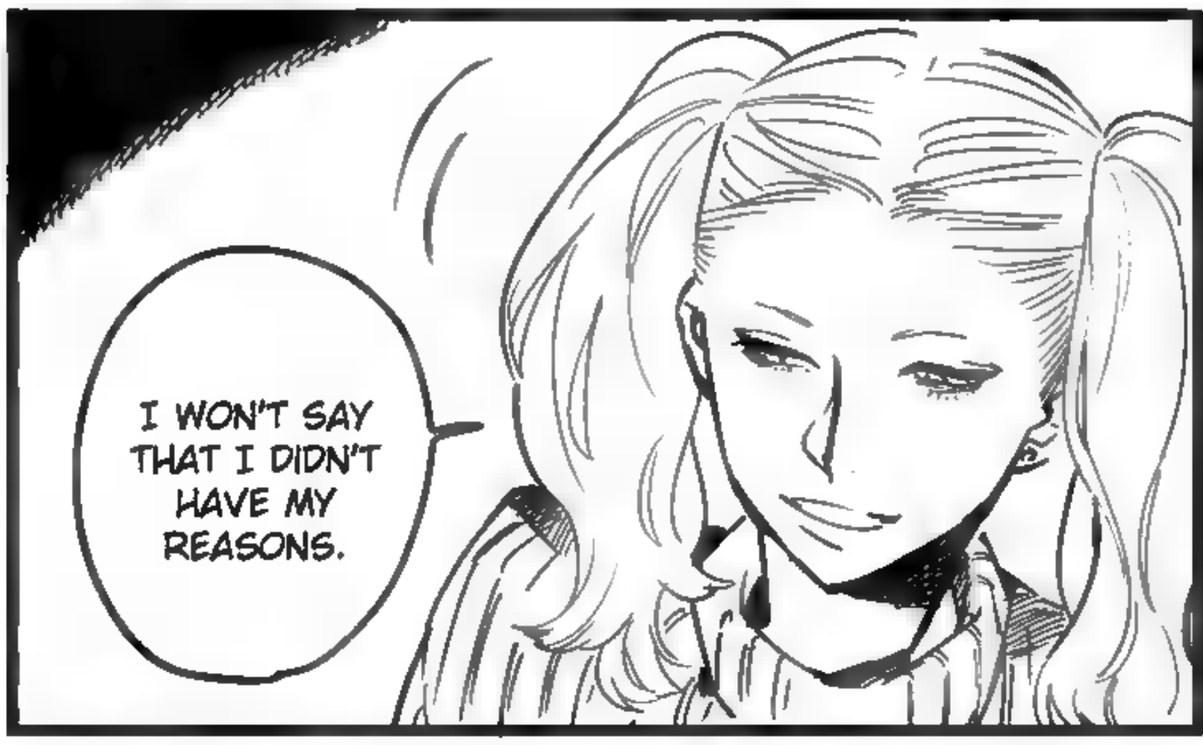
Sip

...

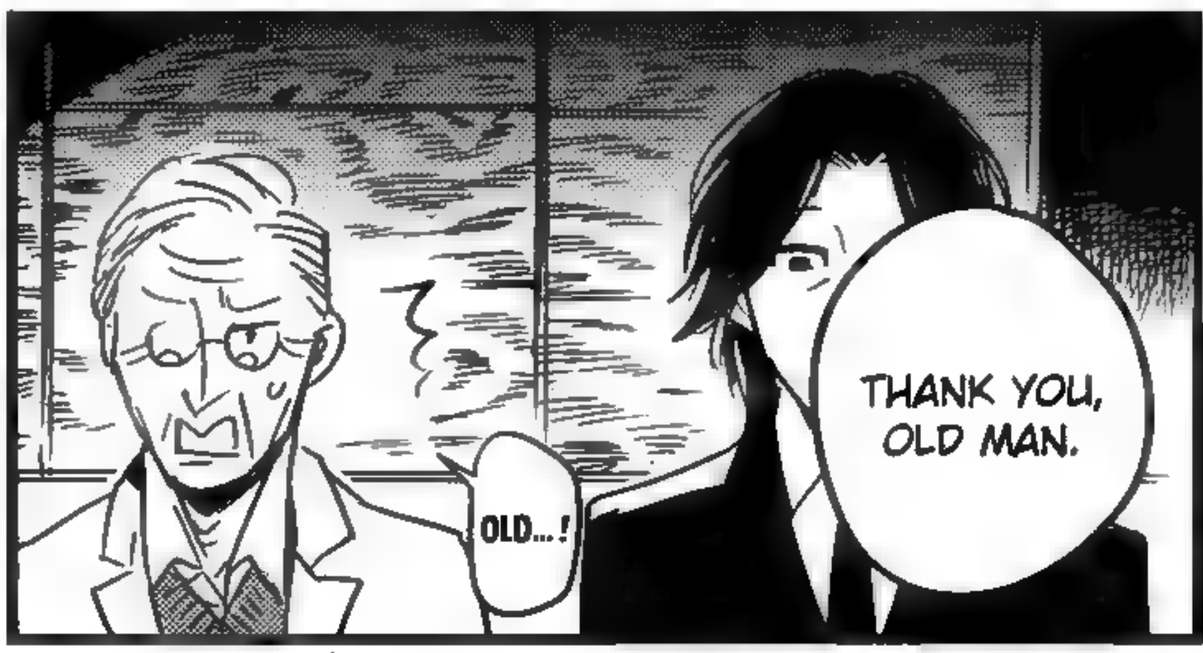
...I HAD AN ABORTION.

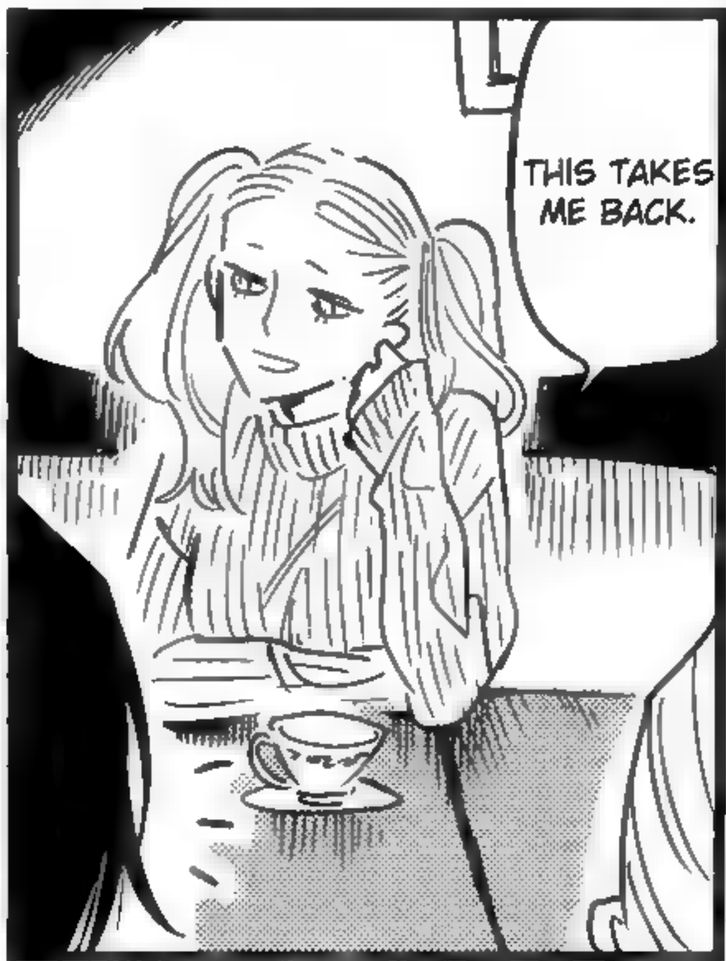
I REALLY WANTED TO HAVE IT.

IT'S THE FIRST TIME HE'S SAID THAT.


I WON'T SAY THAT I DIDN'T HAVE MY REASONS.

ALL I CAN DO IS REGRET IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

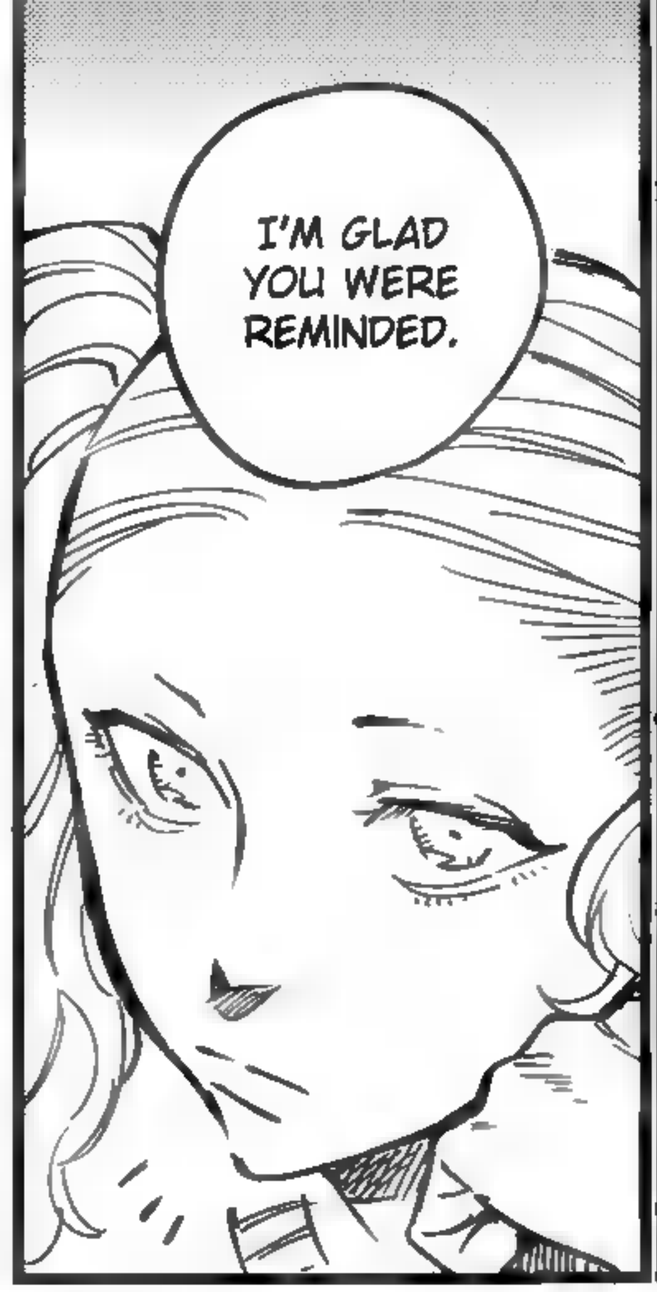

OLD...!
THANK YOU, OLD MAN.


THIS TAKES ME BACK.

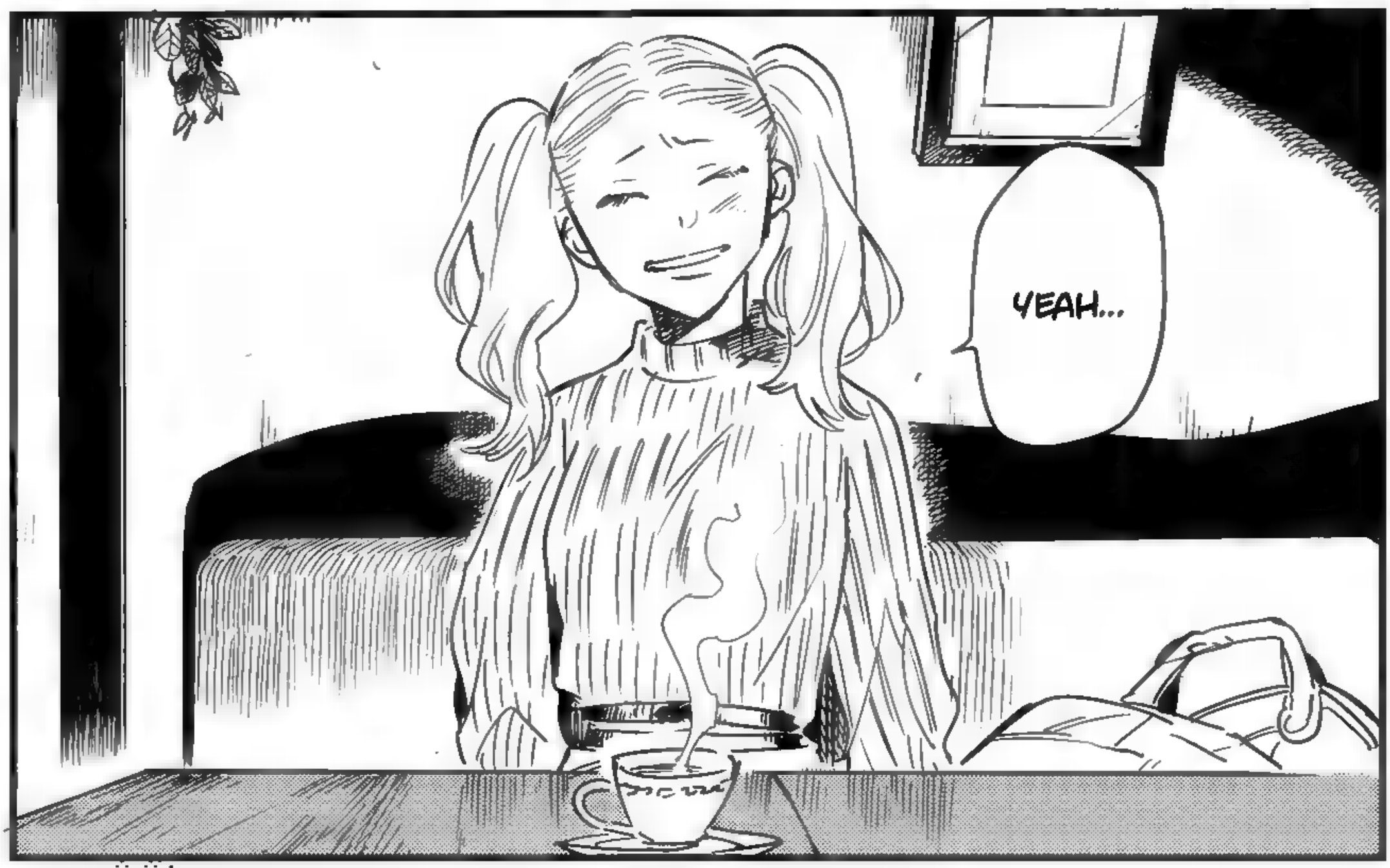
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S NEXT TO THE STATION.
THERE ARE LOTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE HERE.

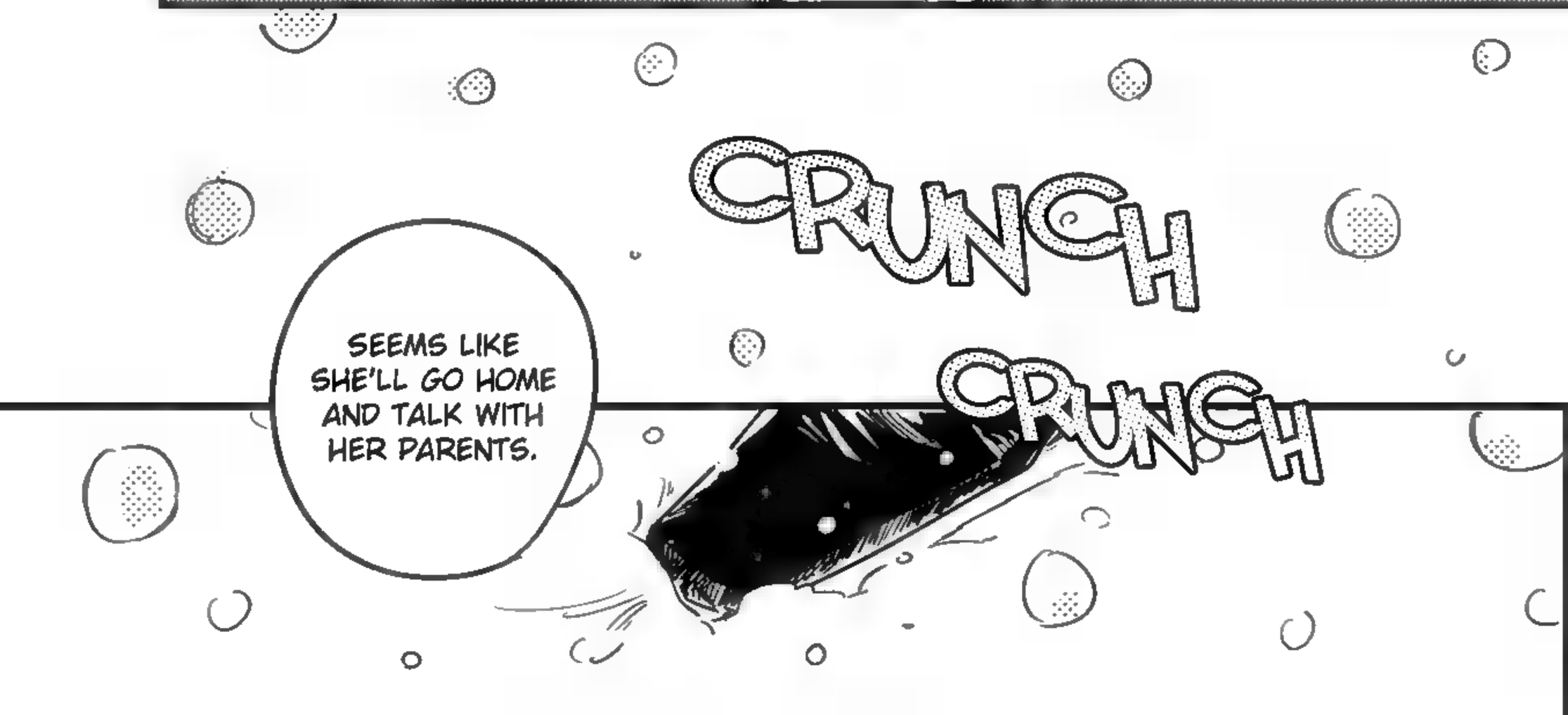
CAN I GET MY CHECK?

It's cold!
GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY...
TALKING WITH FRIENDS ABOUT WHAT KIND OF WEDDING, WHAT KIND OF JOB WE'D HAVE, EATING ALL THE WHILE
I LOVE THIS COFFEE HOUSE.
WHEN WE WERE WALKING, I REMEMBERED IT.


I'M GLAD YOU WERE REMINDED.

I WONDER WHY WE FORGET ABOUT THE THINGS WE LOVE.

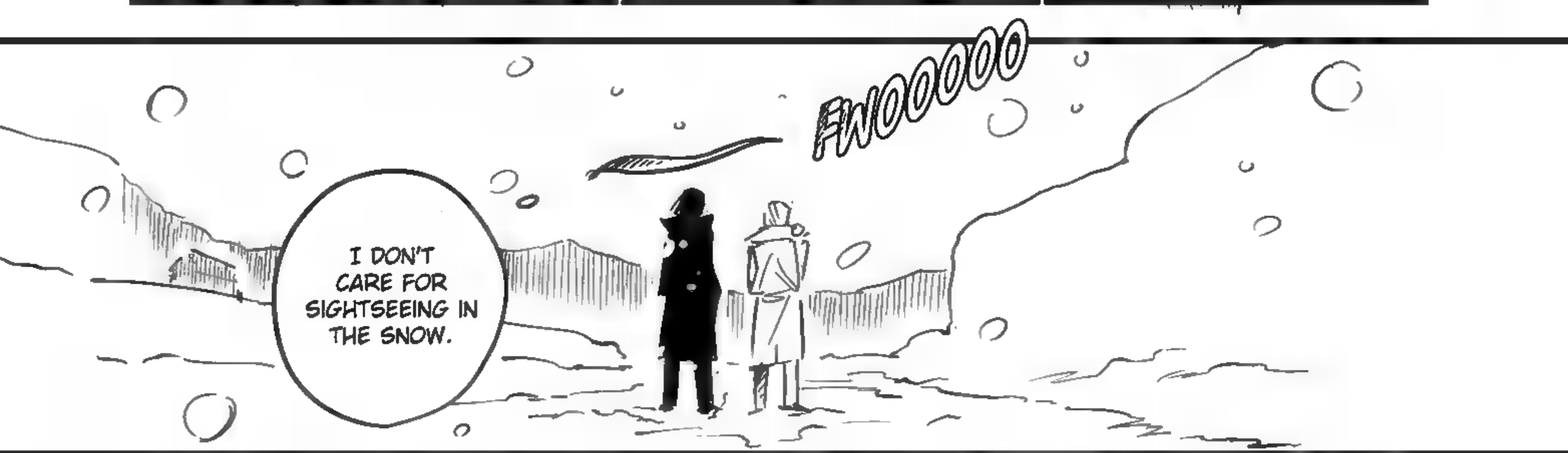

YEAH...


CRUNCH
CRUNCH
SEEMS LIKE SHE'LL GO HOME AND TALK WITH HER PARENTS.

BUT...

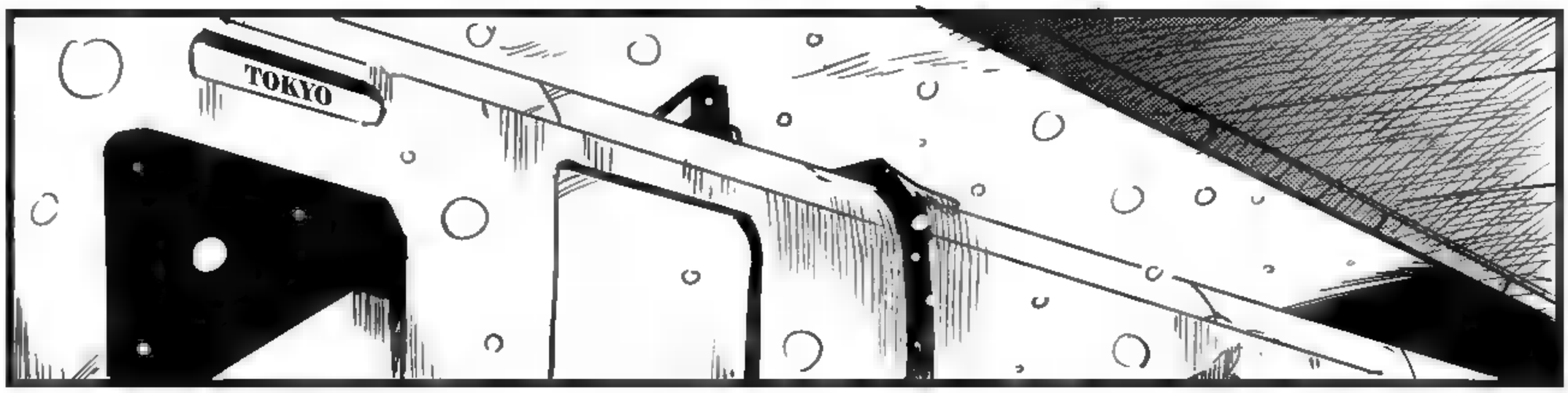
WHEN SHE CAME TO US, SHE WANTED TO CHANGE.
ALL SHE NEEDED WAS A WAY TO MOVE FORWARD.

I WONDER WHAT MADE HER MIND UP TO TALK TO THEM


FWOOOOOO
I DON'T CARE FOR SIGHTSEEING IN THE SNOW.

LET'S BUY SOME BOOZE AND GO.

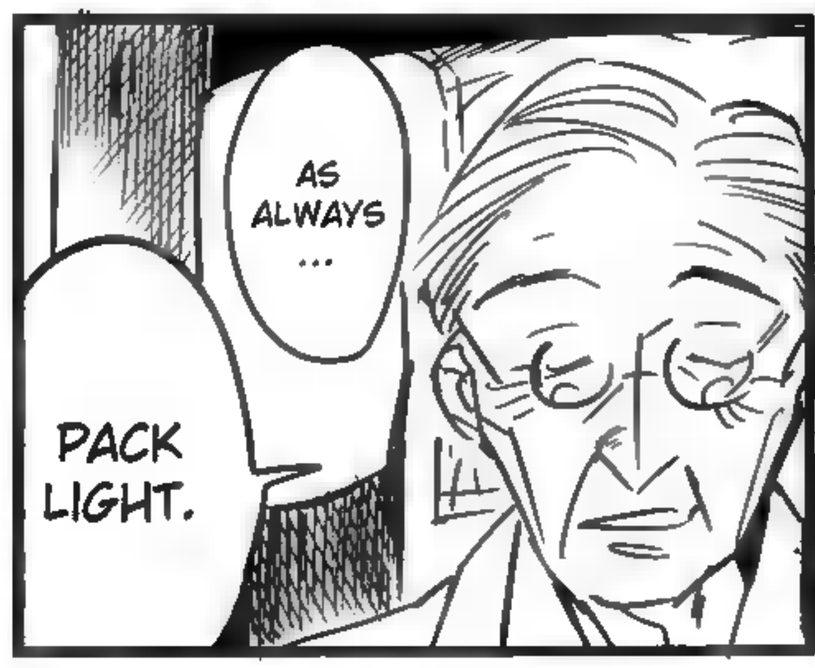
Thank you. Come again!
I'll put it back...
...
BEEF YAMAGATA
EDIBLE WILD PLANTS IN YAMAGATA?
BEEF
Yes, sir...
TWO MICHINOKU BENTOS.
Yes, sir.
HUH...?


TOKYO

I WONDER WHOSE SCENT HOSHIHIKO WAS FOLLOWING?

Huff ...

CAN YOU COME?
GOT IT.


AS ALWAYS ...
PACK LIGHT.

BE AT THIS ADDRESS AT 10:00 IN THE MORNING.
IT WAS A PRIVATE REQUEST, BUT...
OH, RIGHT. I HAVE A CASE I WANT YOU TO HELP ME WITH TOMORROW.
WHO KNOWS...?

ME
MOR
IES
I HAVEN'T HAD THE ABILITY, UP UNTIL NOW.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BECAUSE YOU WERE STABBED.
HA HA HA!

All right...

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME MAKING SUCH AN EXCURSION WITH YOU.
THE OFFICE WAS IN SUCH DISORDER WHEN I TOOK IT OVER.

THANKS.

HERE.

THAT WAS TOO MUCH...

GULP
IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT SHE HAD TO SEE FOR HERSELF, BUT...

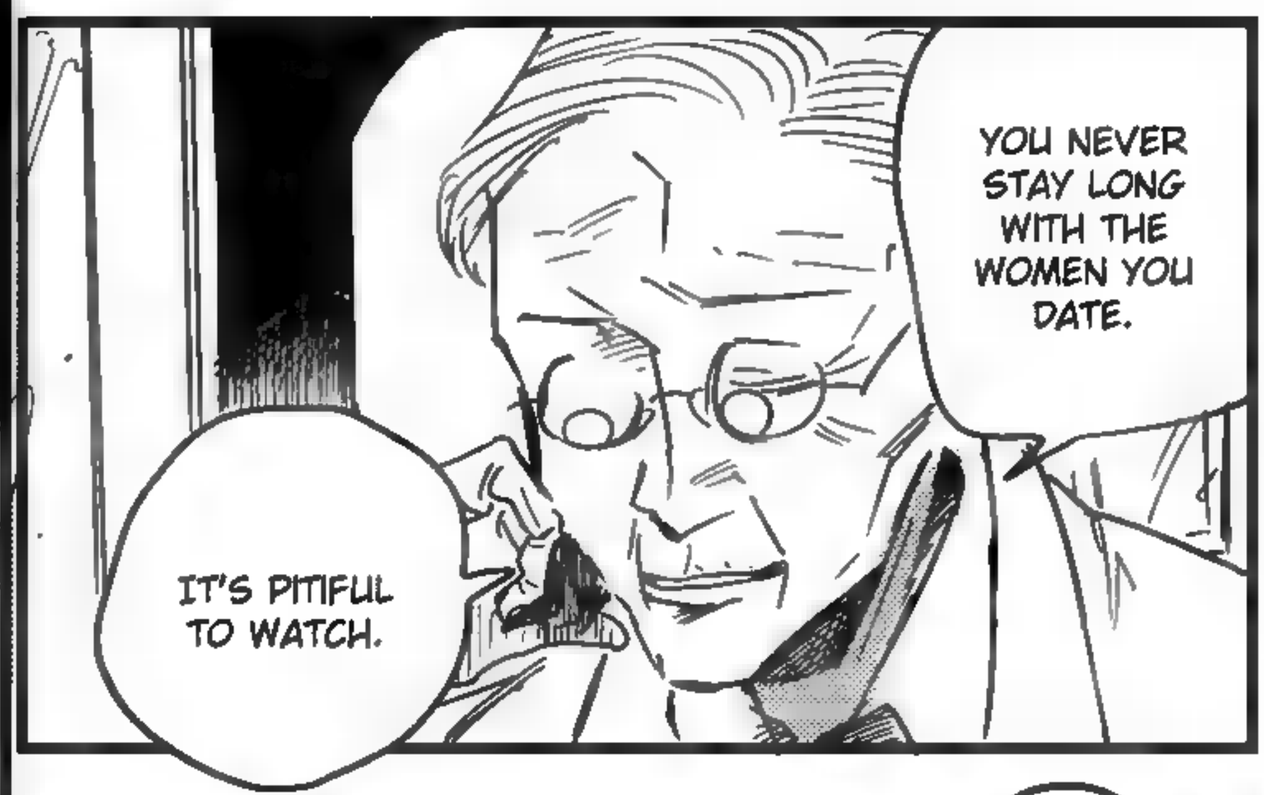
YOU LIKED HER.
THAT YOUNG LADY...
I FELT SORRY FOR HER.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU HAVE TO...

ABANDON THE PAST...

SO YOU CAN KEEP ON LIVING.

I GUESS...


YOU NEVER STAY LONG WITH THE WOMEN YOU DATE.
IT'S PITIFUL TO WATCH.

ISN'T IT NICE, THAT KIND OF PASSIONATE LOVE?
BECAUSE IT'S DRIVEN BY THE POWER OF YOUTH.

SIP

ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?

WAKI.

HOSHIHIKO'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW.

IS THAT SO...?

...I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

TOKYO

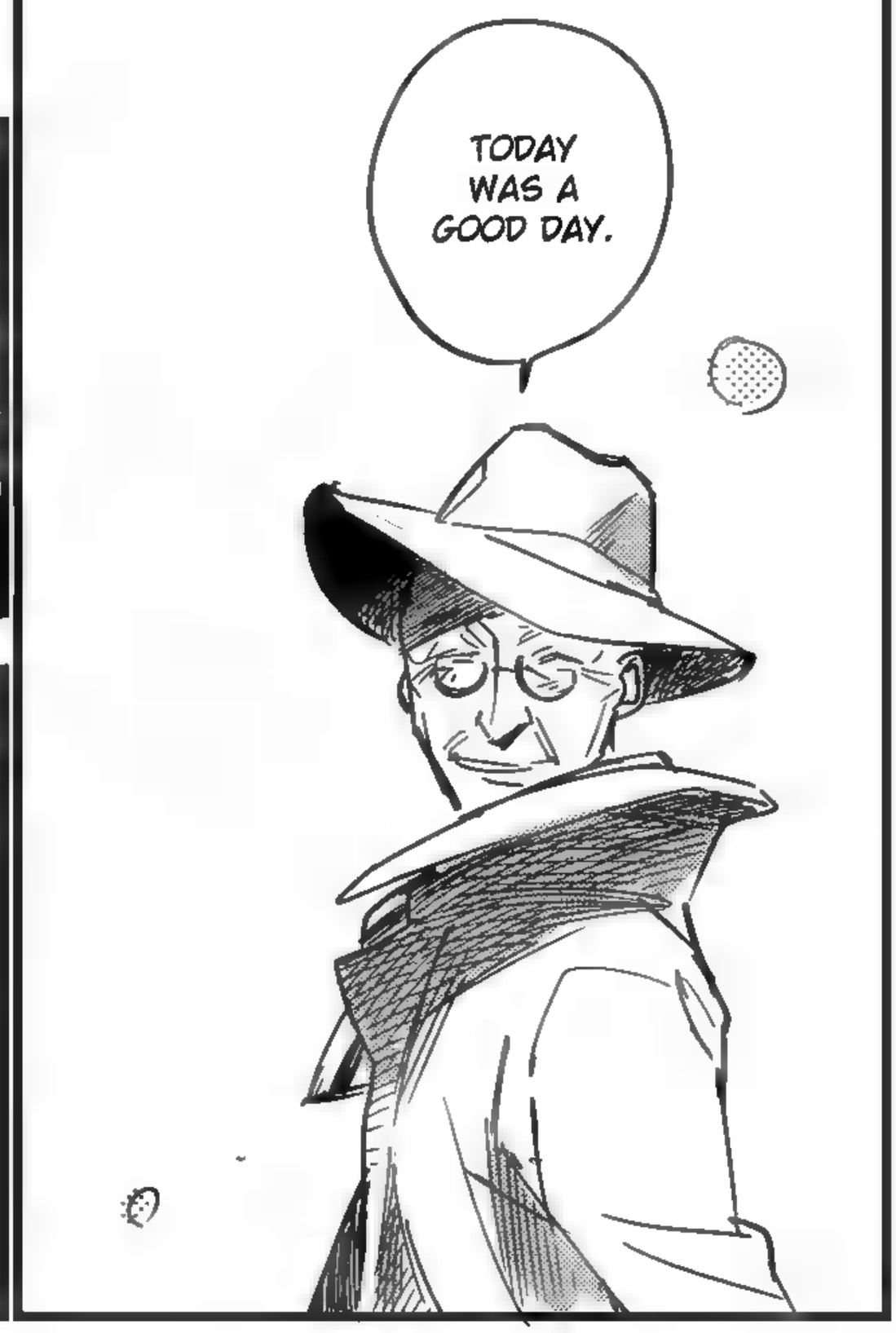
SEE YOU TOMORROW.

YES.

SEE YOU.

WAKI.

...YEAH.


TODAY WAS A GOOD DAY.

chuckle

A ha ha!

NOOOO! I SENT IT!

NO, BUT I COULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE "GOOD WORK"...

FRET

FRET

NO, I CAN'T. WAKI-SAN DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN THINGS GET HEAVY...

I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A TEXT FROM WAKI-SAN ...

TO BE CONTINUED

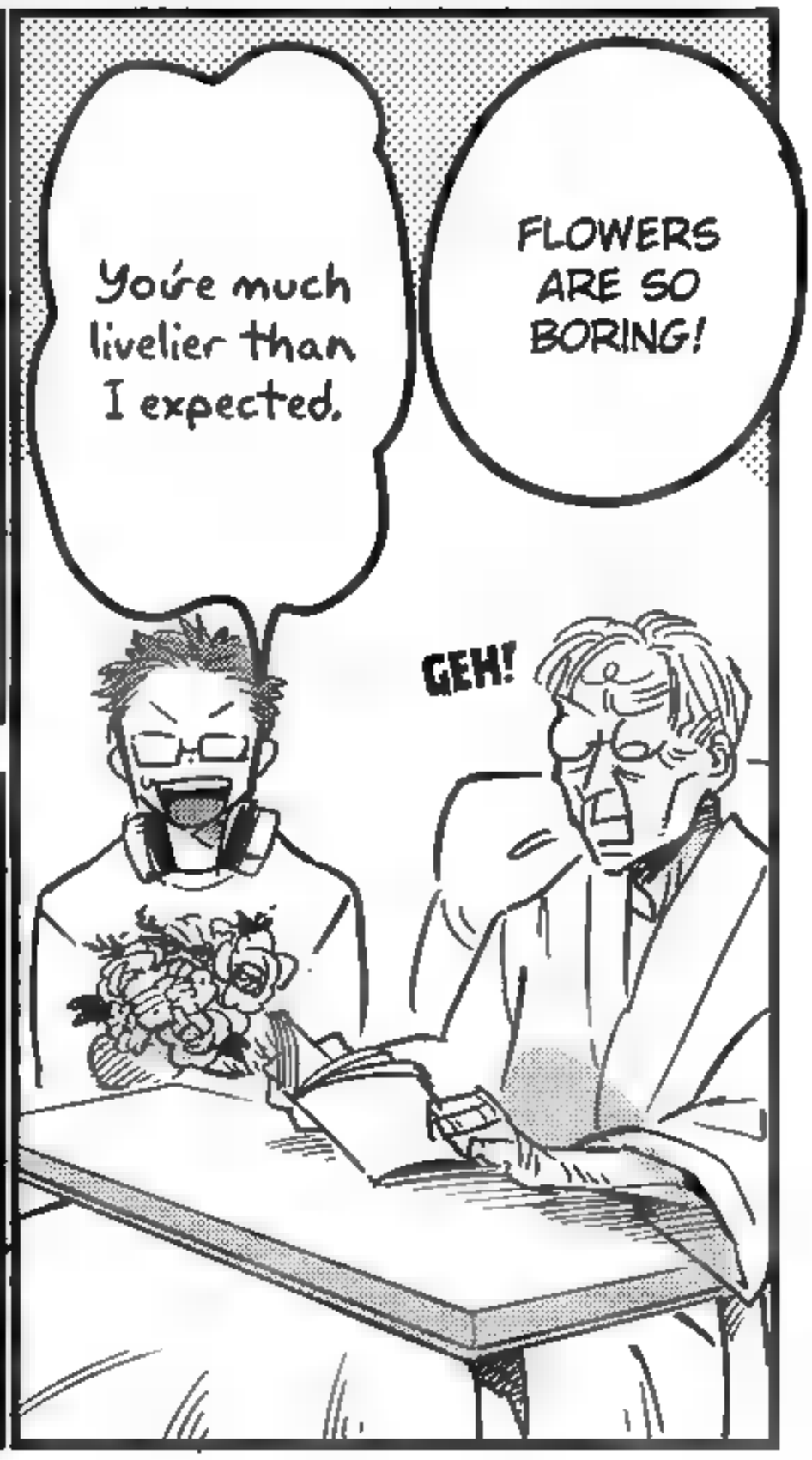
CHAPTER 4/END

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
STARTLE
FW
WAKI-SAN...
-SH

Chapter 5

The Tales of the Annals of the Daylight Detective Agency

YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT ANY BOOZE, HAVE YA?



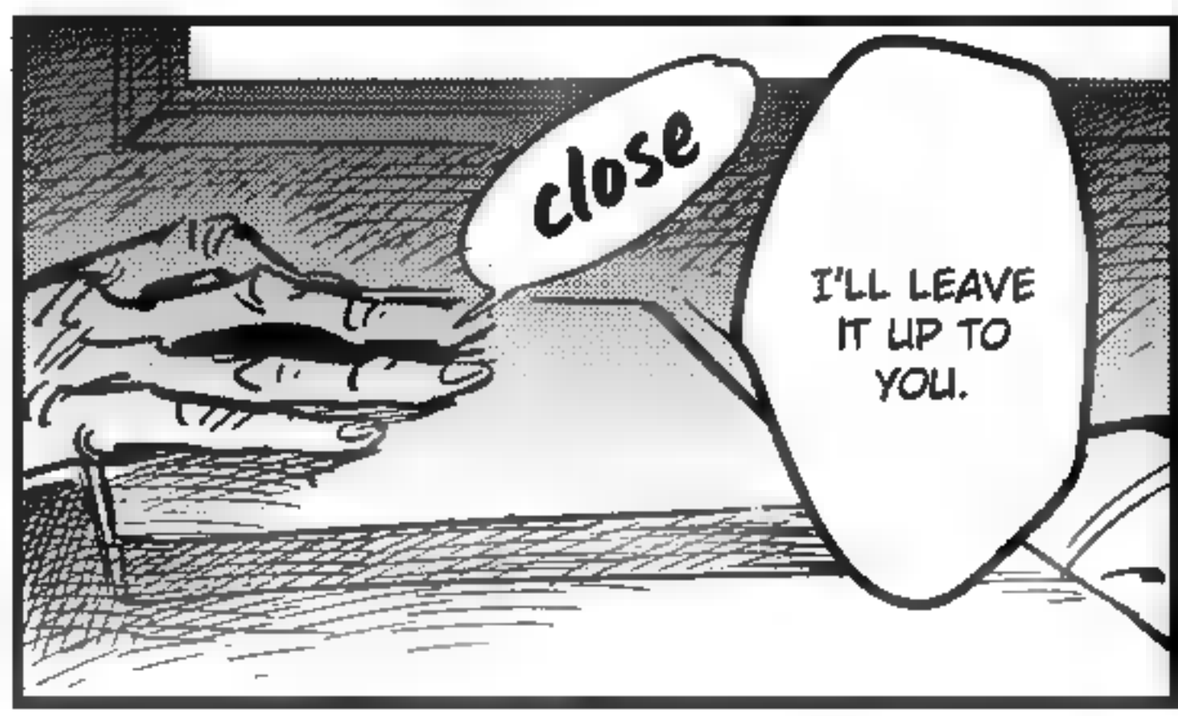
SAYING THAT KIND OF THING AGAIN...
DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN I DIE SOME DAY.
SHAK
KER -CHAK
THERE'S NO VASE FOR THE FLOWERS.
Oh. I'll go ask if I can borrow one.

HEY!
WAIT!
GYA HAHA!

WAKI.

THAT'S ALL THERE ■ IN TERMS OF LIABILITIES.
WHAT TO DO WITH THE BUSINESS...

THE DEED FOR THE OFFICE IS IN MY DESK DRAWER.


close
I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU.

EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF WORK KEPT US BUSY.

Hup...!
I HAD BIG DREAMS, BUT...

WAKI.

-SIGH...

I'M SORRY.

SHINONOME -SAAAN!
...

OH, EVERYONE.

IT'LL BE TIME SOON.

I BORROWED ONE.

smile

CAN I DRAW YOUR BLOOD?

SURE, COME ON IN.

KEEP IT DOWN!

WAVE WAVE

YEAH...

Let's lay you down.

WILL YOU GO BACK TO THE OFFICE, WAKI-SAN?

WE'LL COME AGAIN TOMORROW.

BOSS.

OH.
SHAK
HOSHIHIKO
...

IS THIS OFFICE GOING TO CLOSE?
BREAK DETECTIVE AGENCY

MAYBE ...
?

HE FOLLOWED US.

SILENCE...
HE'S QUIETER THAN USUAL.

glance

YEAH...
MM-HM.
Paperwork and such...
SHOULD WE START PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER FIRST?

BLUUUUUSH
We're going out now, so...
Going out...
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, NOTHING.
Cat hunting
I couldn't ask him before, but...
He's acting...
so calm.
OH...
slide
Er...
WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH THE BOSS?

...
He's gone quiet again.
I don't want him to dodge the question.
CLENCH

IS THAT SO?

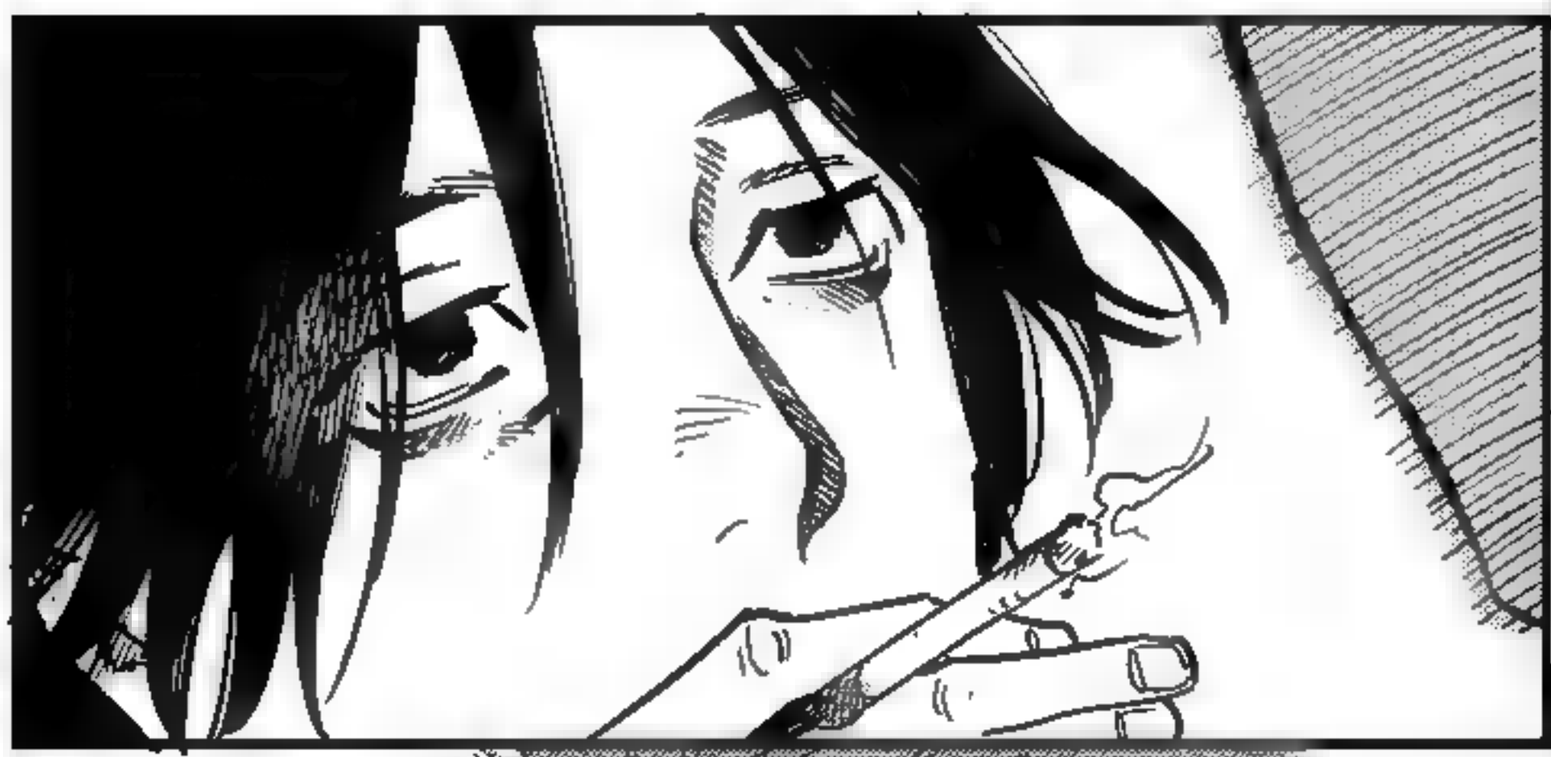
DIDN'T I EVER TELL YOU?
N-NO.

I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU.

BANG
I-
I WANT TO KNOW.
I DO!

GRIT...

I'm being a bother.
Uh!
Um...



WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
MY MOTHER RAN AWAY WITH THE MAN SHE WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH.

MY FATHER COMMITTED SUICIDE BY OVERDOSE.

SO...
I LIVED WITH HIS DEAD BODY FOR A MONTH.
Huh...?
BEFORE I WAS TAKEN INTO PROTECTION...
I WENT INTO A HOME, BUT
I DIDN'T LIKE IT.
ALL I COULD DO WAS RUN AWAY.

WHOA
DASH
OH!
SHOULD WE CALL THE POLICE?

SHINE
YOU...
PANT
PANT
HEY.

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

THAT WAS THE BOSS.

AFTER GETTING ME SOME RAMEN, HE CALLED THE HOME, BUT...
AFTER THAT HE KEPT COMING TO SEE ME.
I THOUGHT I'D WORK WITH HIM AFTER I FINISHED MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WELL, VARIOUS THINGS HAPPENED, AND AS A RESULT... WE STARTED THIS BUSINESS.
WE STARTED THIS BUSINESS.

IS THIS OFFICE GOING TO CLOSE?

OH...

I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.

WHAT I SAID EARLIER...

HM?

...NEVER MIND.

IT'S LATE.

FOR WHAT?

SHALL WE GO HOME?

YEAH, LET'S.

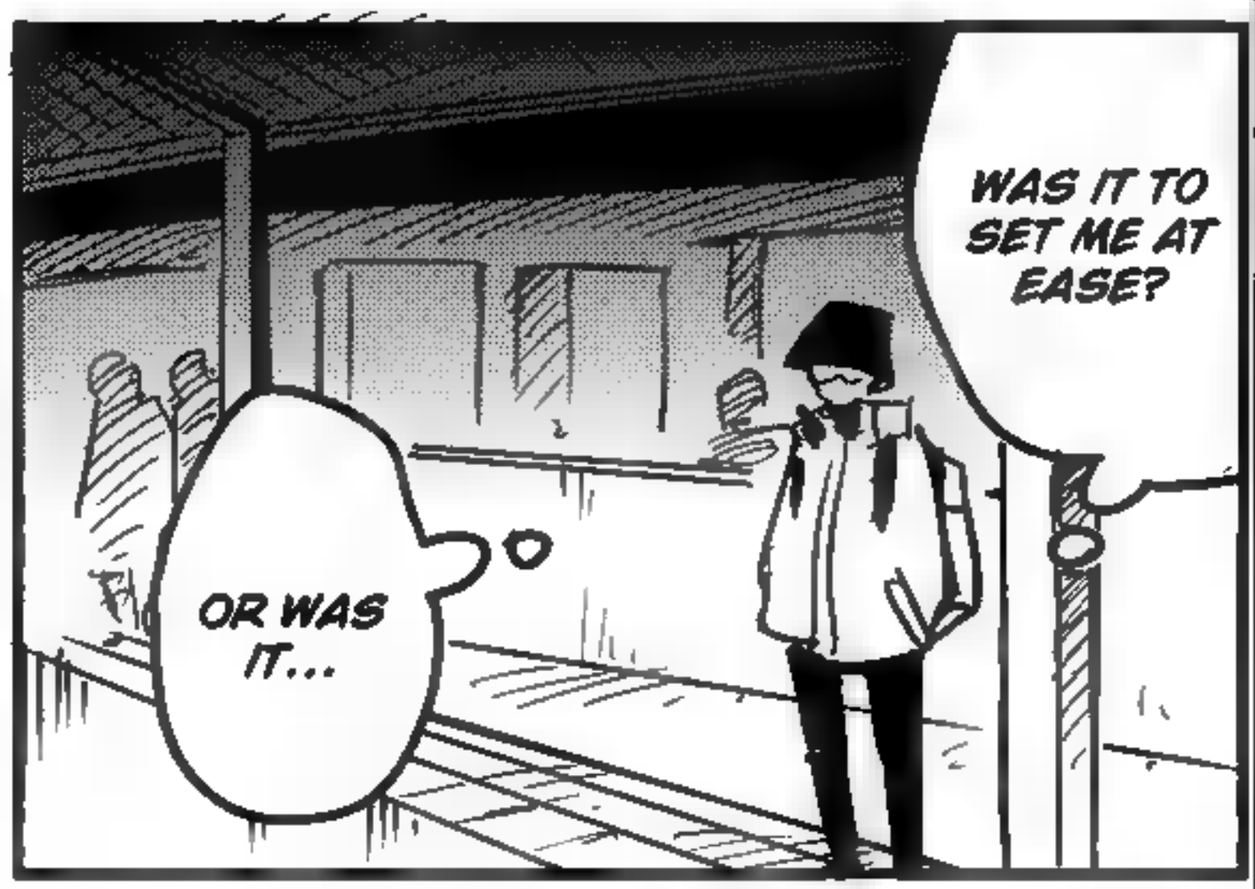
CREAK

OH.

RIKA.

YES!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME [redacted] FOR A WHILE.


WAS IT TO SET ME AT EASE?
OR WAS IT...

KICHIJOUJI
Talking to me about the past...

TO SHUT ME UP?

I LOVE YOU.
WHAT...

IS ARRIVING
For your safety, please stand behind the yellow line.
A train is arriving on track three.
RAR
RSH

YOU'RE IN THE WAY...
SHOCK
Is there anything...
SWISH
DRIIIIP
I can do for Waki-san?

DASH!

He ran off...

RIKA...

IF I'M NOT RELIABLE ...

I WANT TO BE.

I WANTED TO GIVE YOU...

A HUG.

WHEN I HEARD YOUR STORY...

glance

I WANT TO HUG YOU.

...

IN ♥ STAY RE
REST! 350
STAY ♥ 4

...YES.

BLOW...

DO YOU WANT ME TO BE THE ONE DOING THE "HUGGING"?

CAN I TAKE A SHOWER?

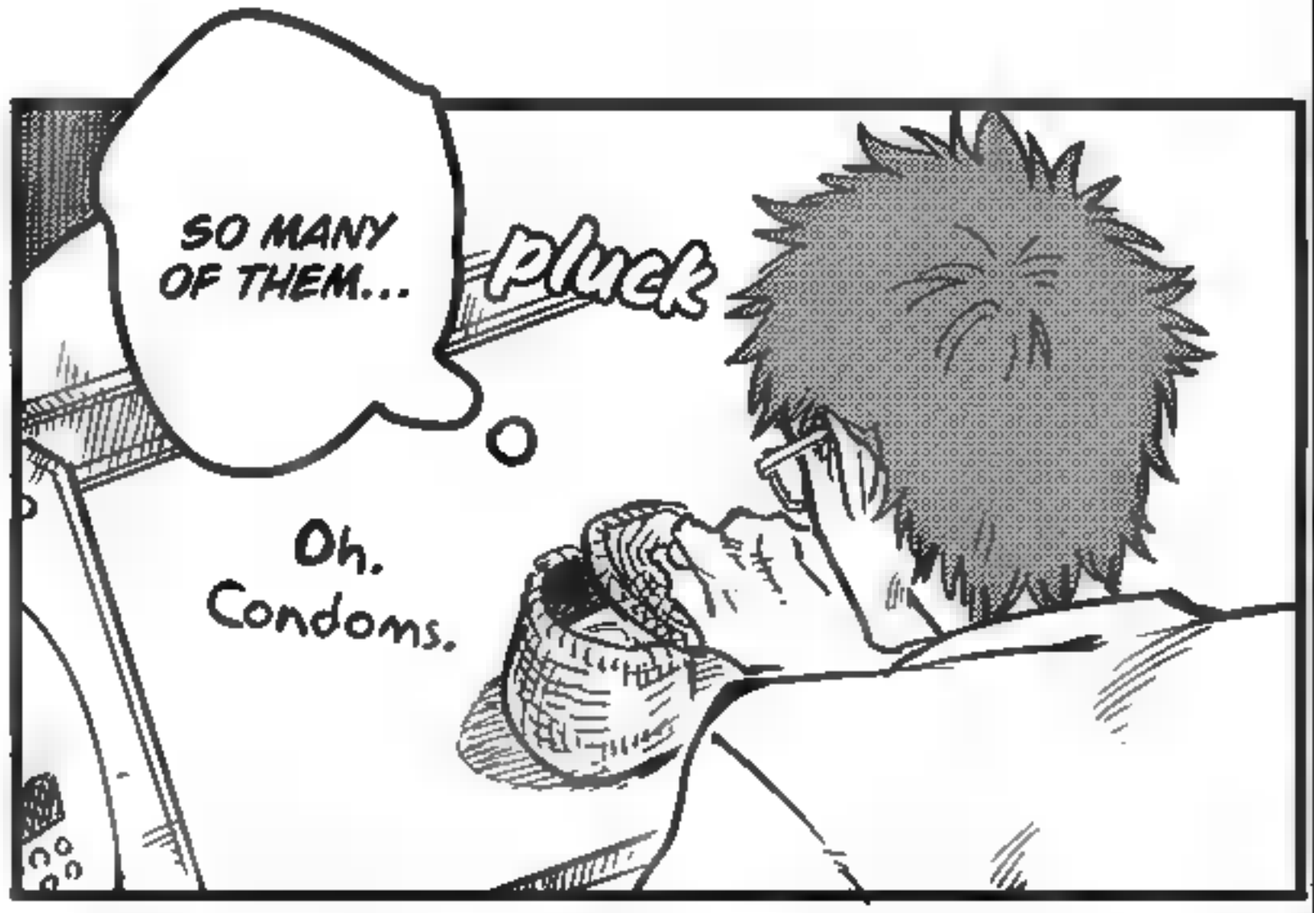
OH! HYEAH!

OF COURSE!

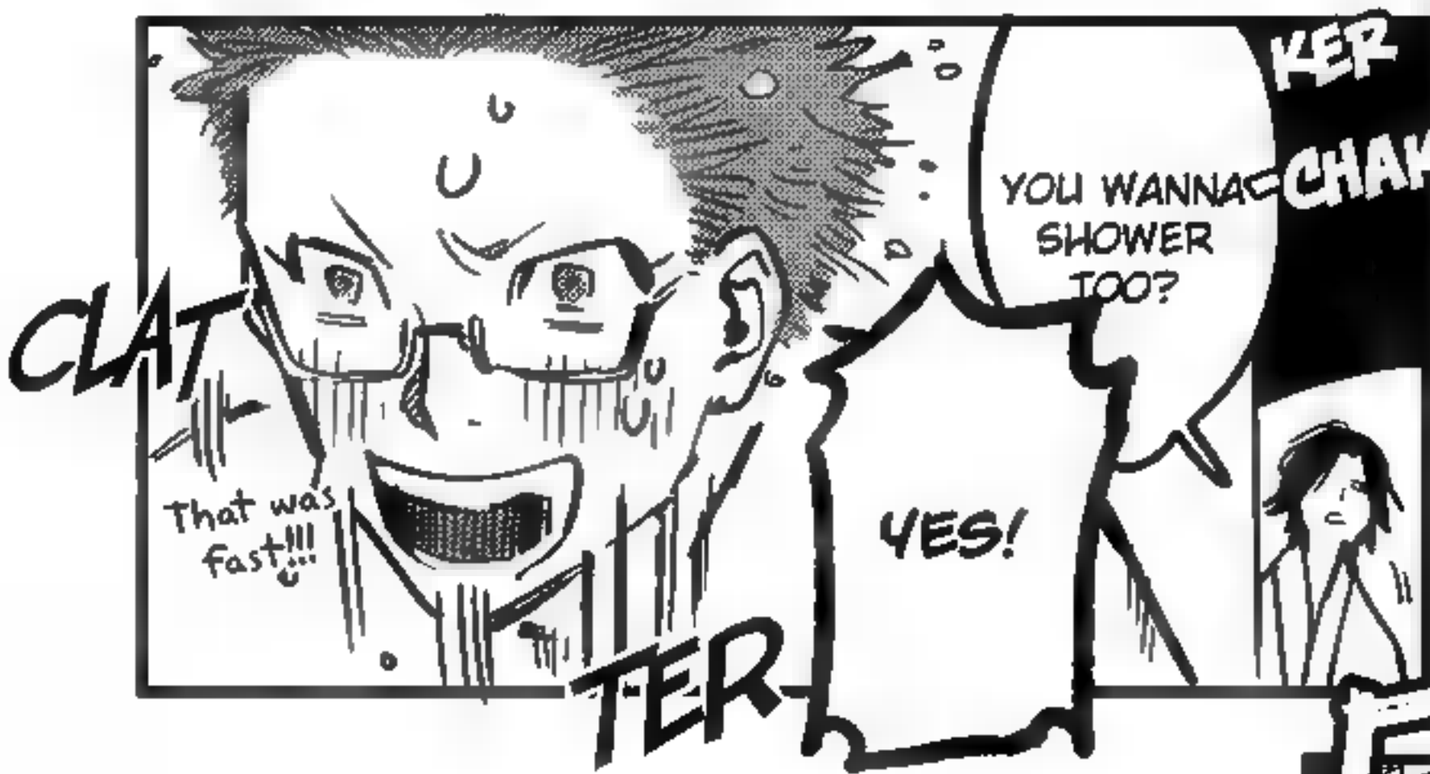
JUMP

SIGHooo

I SAID "HYEAH"...


SO MANY OF THEM...
Pluck
Oh. Condoms.

PEER...
HMM..


CLAT
That was fast!!!
YES!
YOU WANNA SHOWER TOO?
KER
CHAK
TER

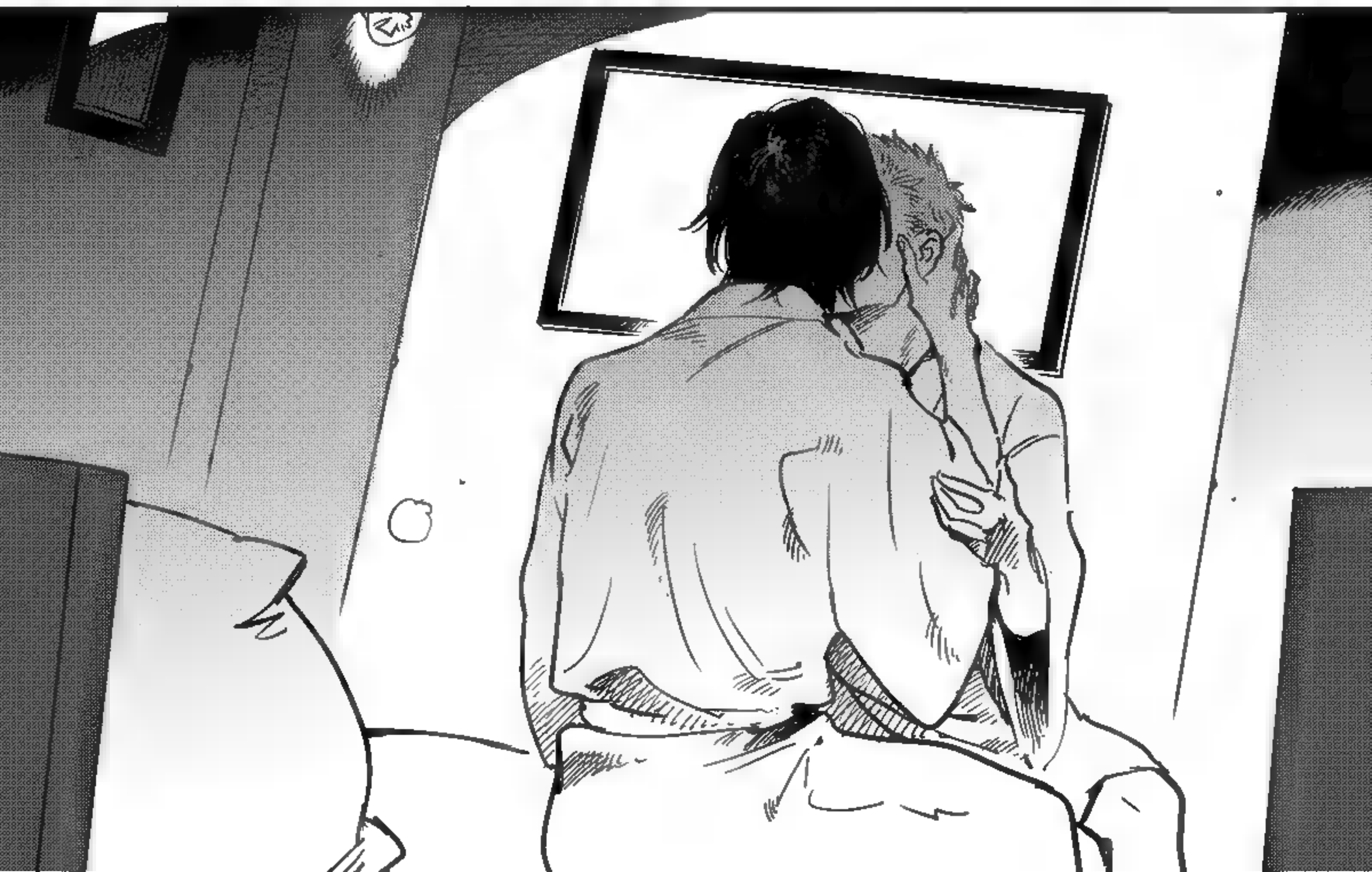
SSSSH
7 2
11 3
19 5
13
23
17

crush
SO...

Uh...

CREAK
SHALL WE START?
Huh?!

Um...
CREAK



FWUMP!
WAKI-SAN ...
WORRY...
WHAT ...?
WAKI-SAN.

WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
WHAT'S WRONG, HOSHIHIKO?
GRAB
IT'S SHINONOME -SAN...
HOSHIHIKO ...?!
◆ CHAPTER 5 END ◆

Chapter 6

The Annals of the Strange Tales of the Daylight Detective

All I have as a goodbye is...

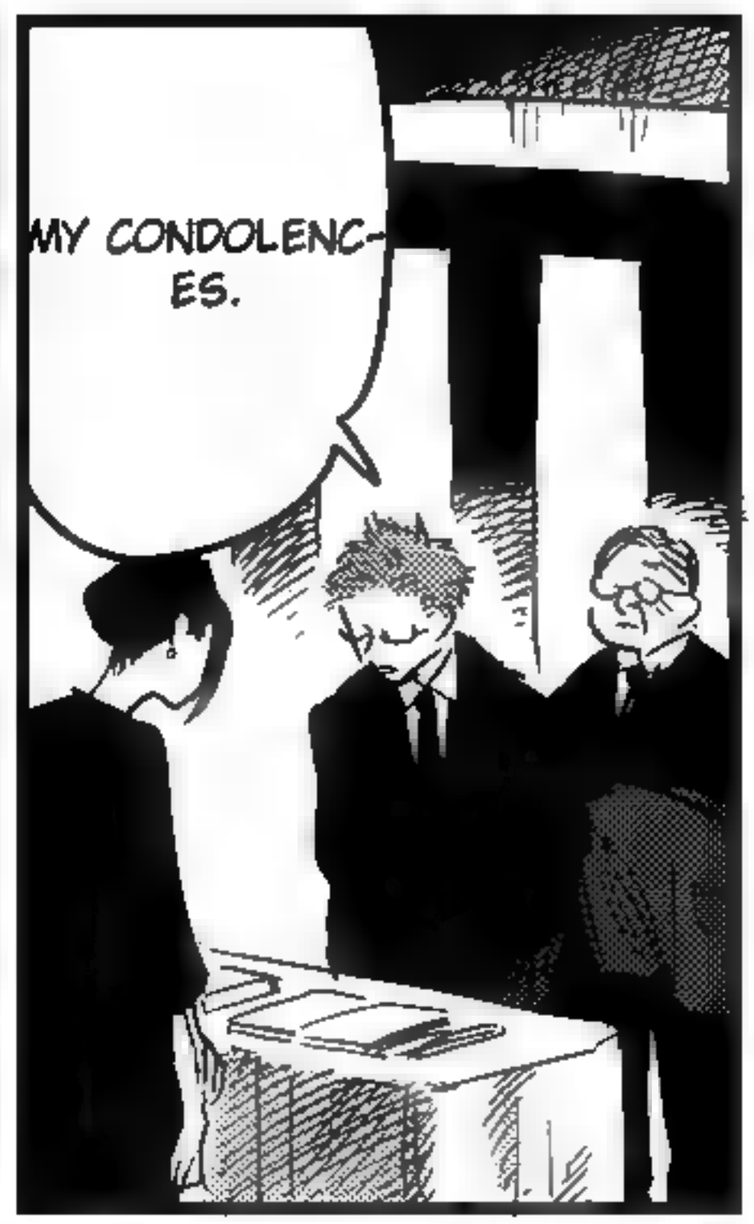
Shinonome-san has departed this world and left the detective agency behind.

What's aggravating that he made arrangements for the inheritance of the business...

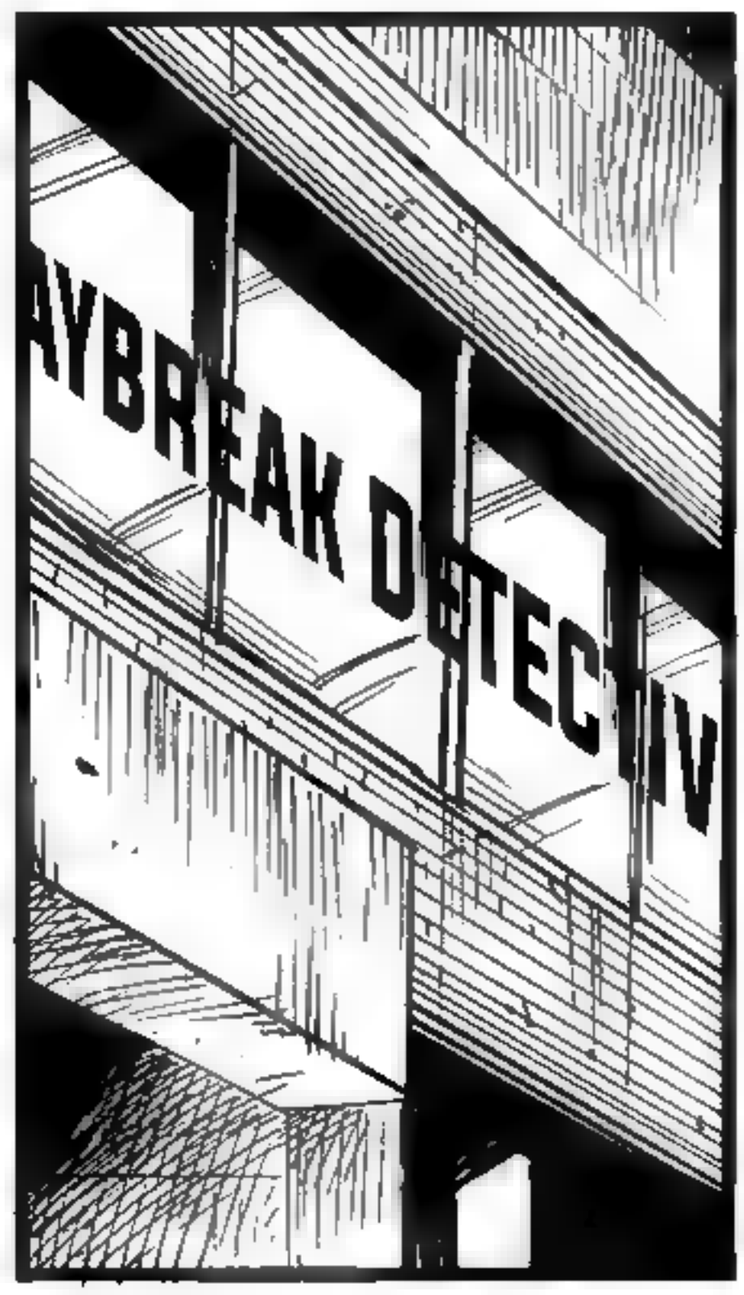
WAKI-SAN DIDN'T COME...

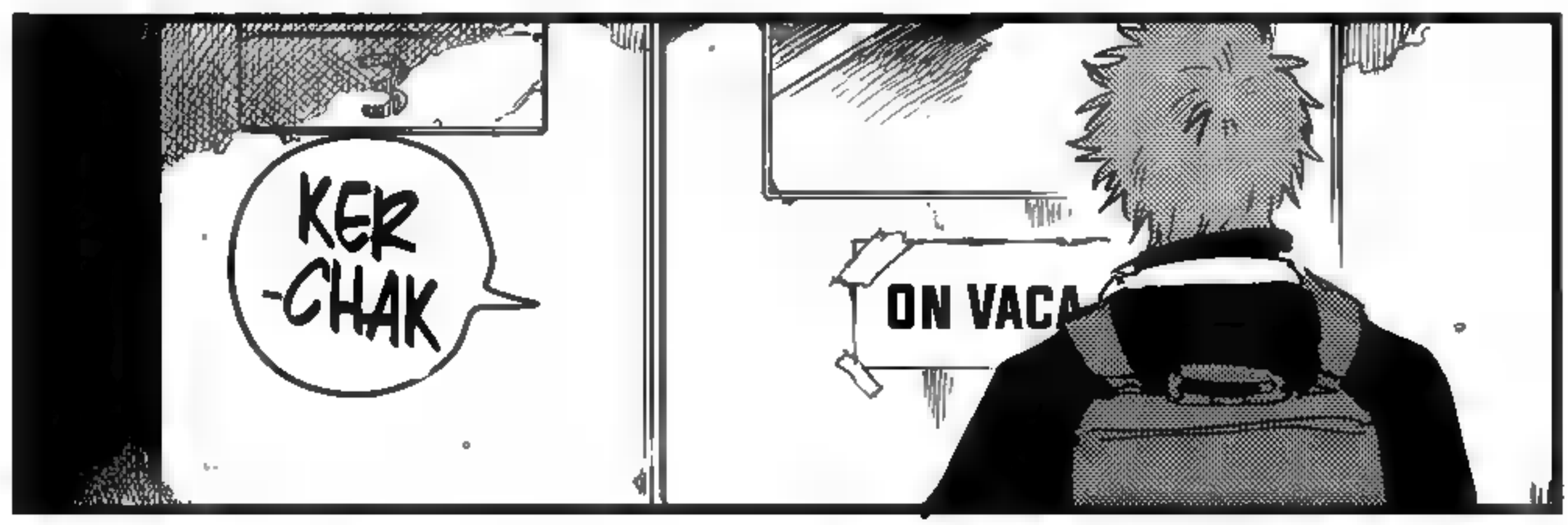
and the only one whose name he wrote down was Waki-san's.

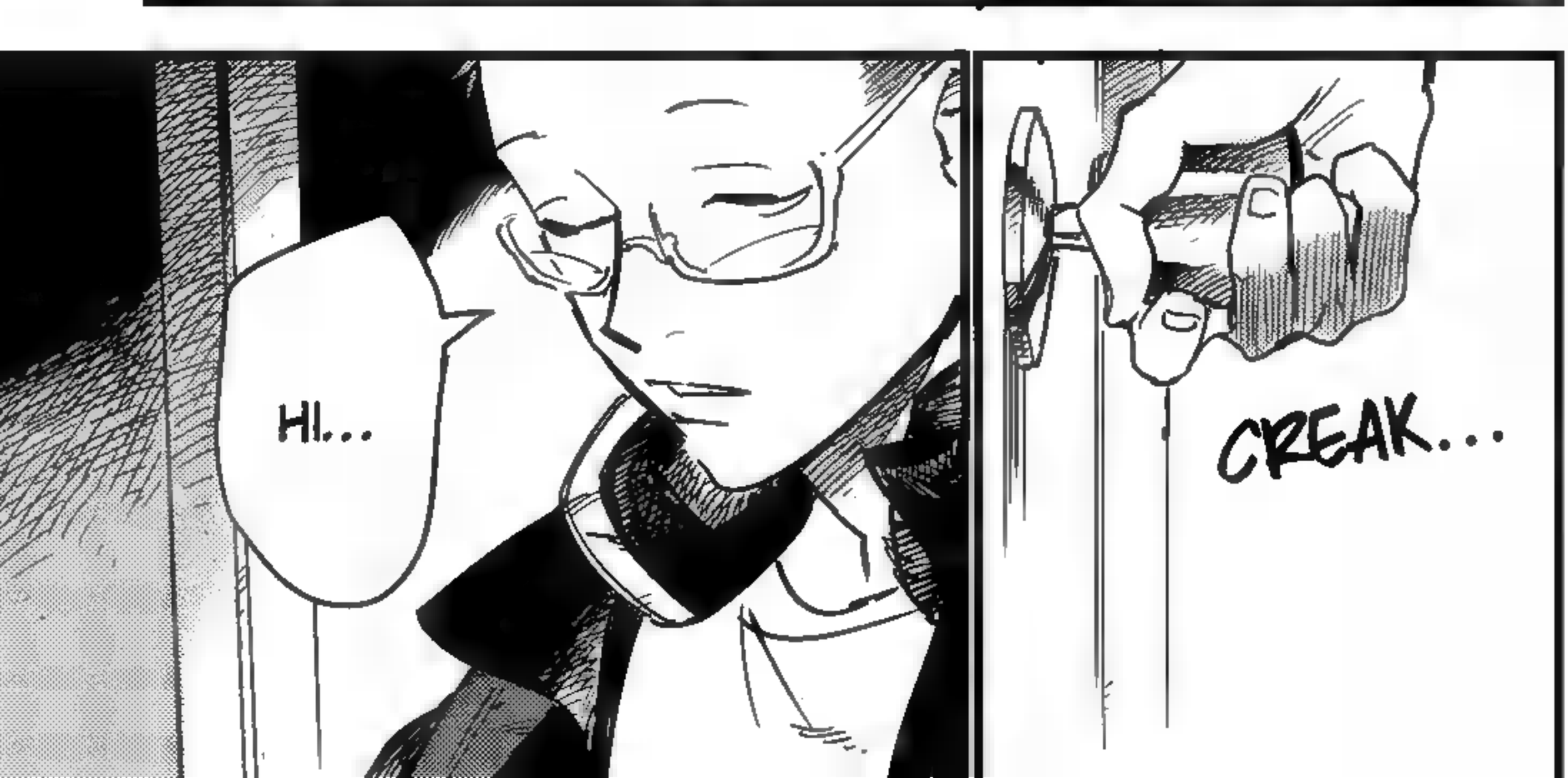
The Daybreak Detective Agency now belongs to Waki-san.



CLACK
VACATION
CLACK


AYBREAK DETECTIV

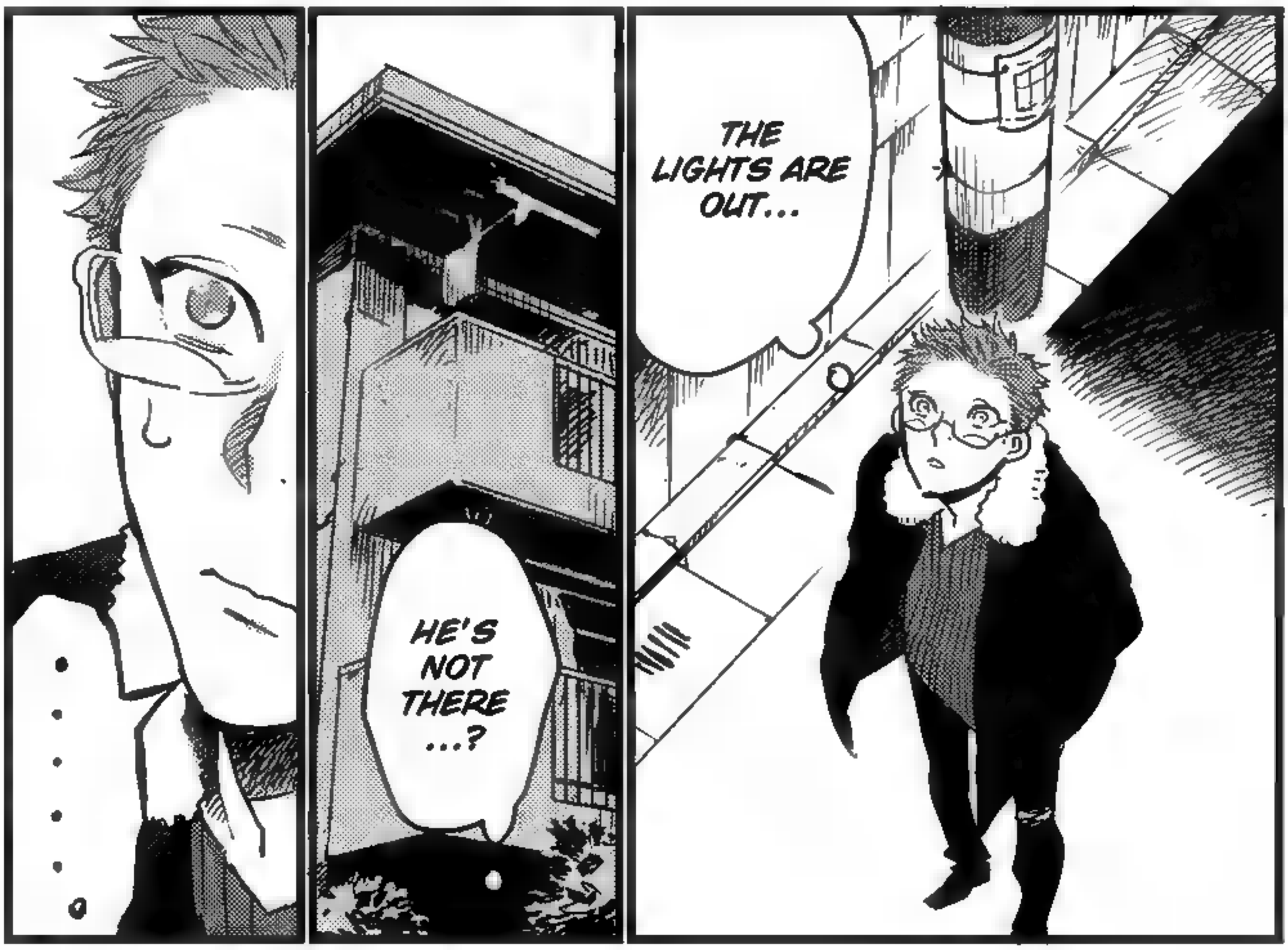

KER
-CHAK
ON VACA

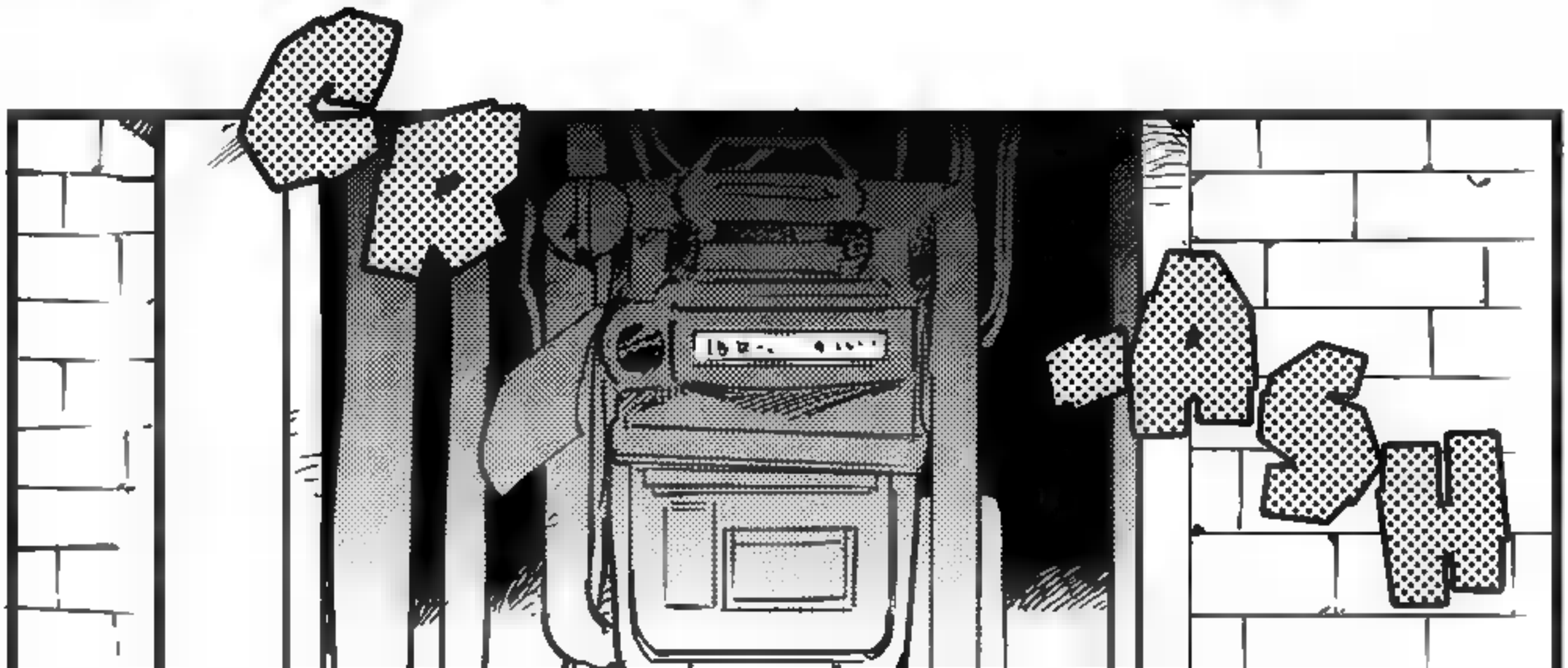

HI...
CREAK...

SILENCE

POFF
and the office is still closed.
SHAK
P-TMP
It's been a month since then...

I tried many times to go to the address on the documents.



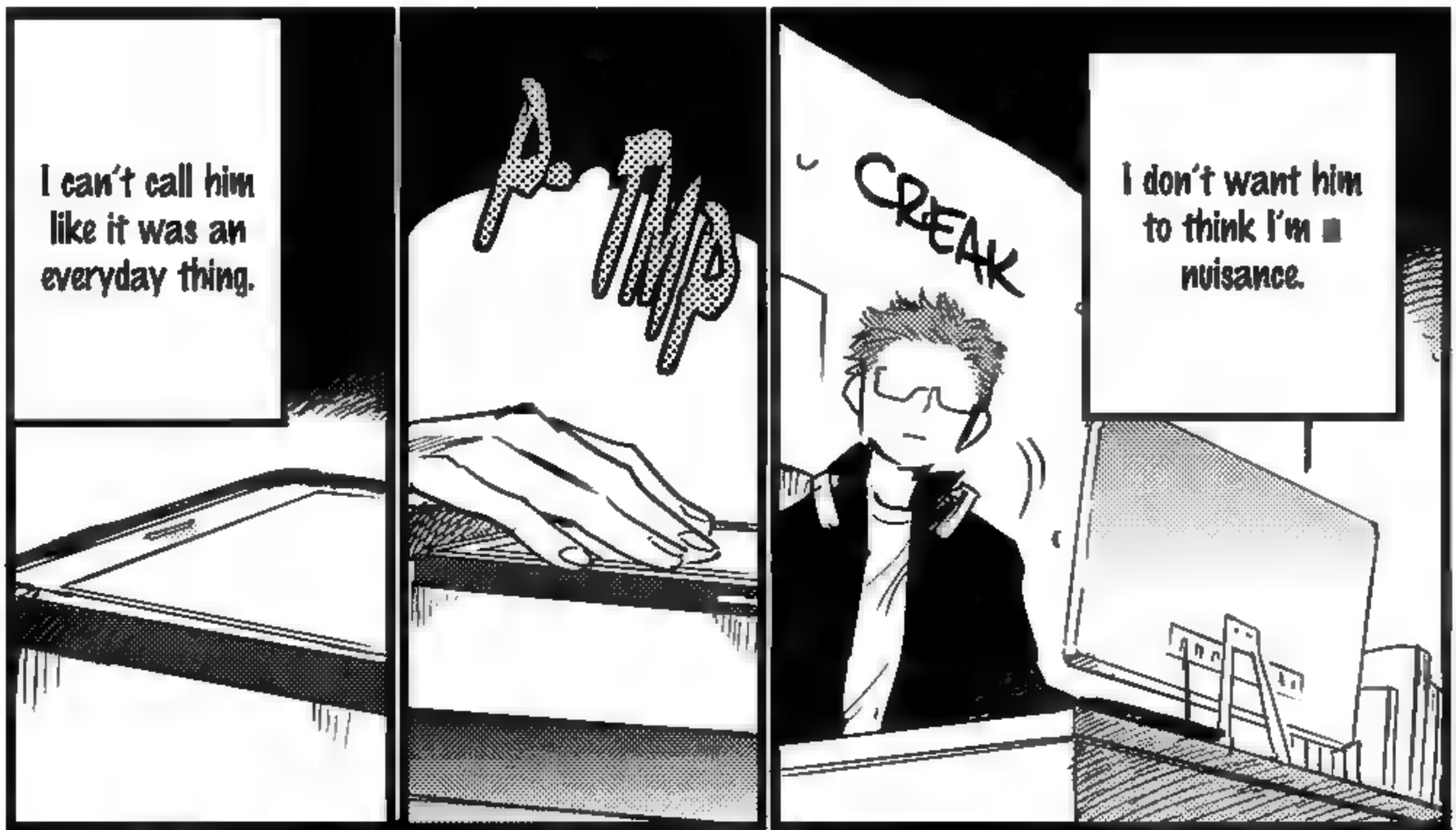


THAT MEANS HE'S INSIDE...
OH.

Because I'm a (part-time) detective,
THE METER'S MOVING!

IF HE'S IN THE BATH, THE DOOR MIGHT BE UNLOCKED...
serious...
...

YBREAK DETECTIVE AGENCY
202
DOUC
...I SHOULD GO HOME.


I can't call him like it was an everyday thing.
FLIP
CREAK
I don't want him to think I'm a nuisance.

HMM DADADADA, IF YOU SAY SO WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO MEET?
RATTLE
MAIL BOX
Of course, my e-mails are unread.

HI DEFEC
If it were the boss, he'd say that.
And so on...
click
NO...
click
click
But...
do I want to see him?
That it would be nice to see him.

That day [redacted] echoing in my ears.

YOU FRIGHTENED ME...!

NGH...

Was I going in circles all by myself?

SHIT!

WAS I REALLY THAT SENSITIVE ...?

NO, IF ONLY HOSHIHIKO HADN'T COME...

BUT...

I wonder where he went...

HE DIDN'T COME TO THE FUNERAL, EITHER.

A SURPRISINGLY HEARTLESS GUY.

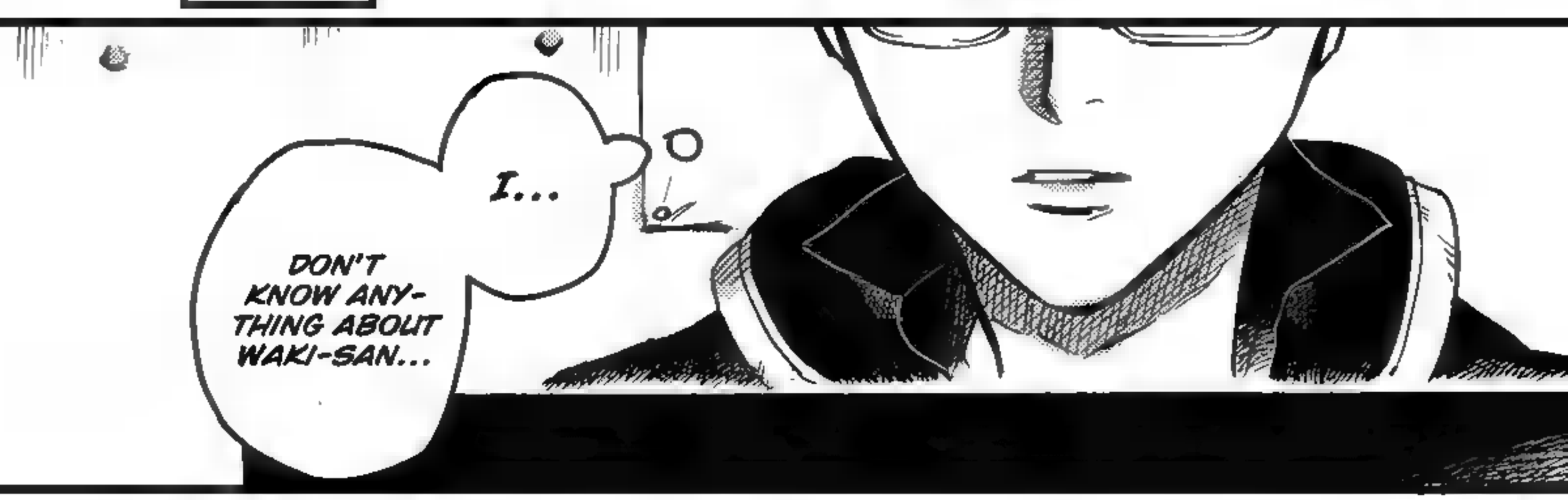
Waki-san...

probably cried alone.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T CRY AT THE FUNERAL.

AM I HEART-LESS, TOO...?

Probably.
I think he's that kind of person...


I...
DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WAKI-SAN...

OH. A TEAR.

TH UNK

I should go.

HOSHI... HIKO?

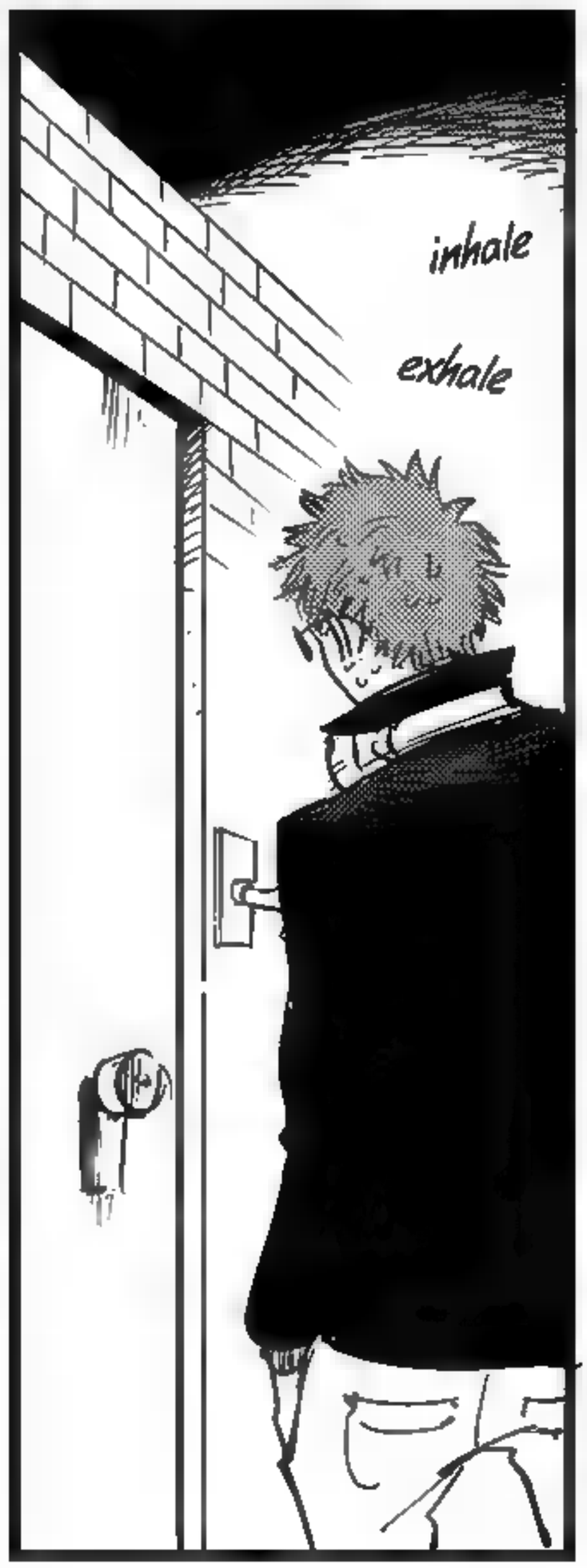
PLEASE LEAVE.

HUH?

It was only a feeling, but...
That was unmistakably his way of saying goodbye.
I have a feeling he said it.
Eat shit.

CREAK
...I CAME AGAIN.
CREAK

BZZZZZ


inhale
exhale

202
DOUCHIN'

gulp

W-

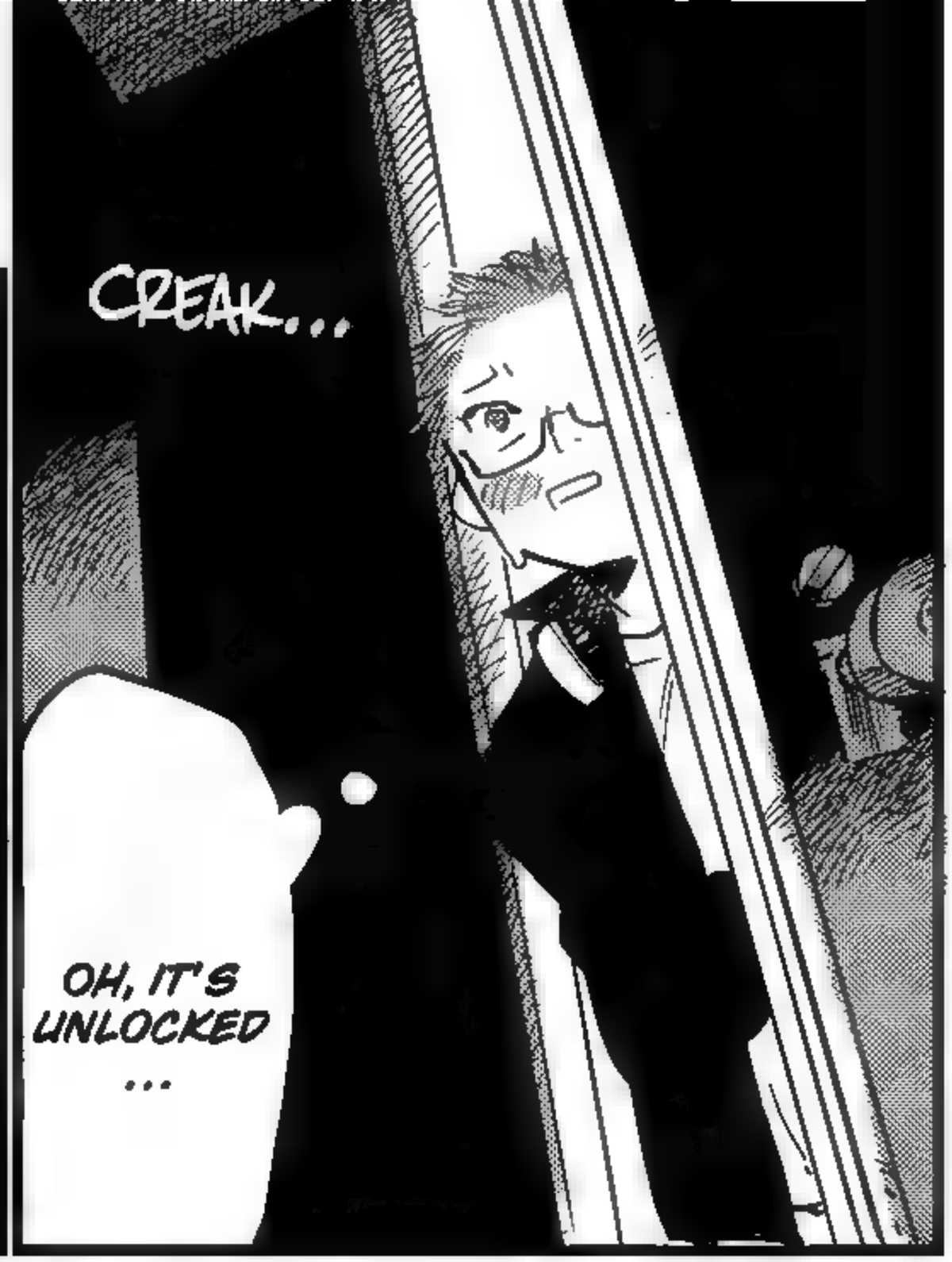
WAKI -SAN.

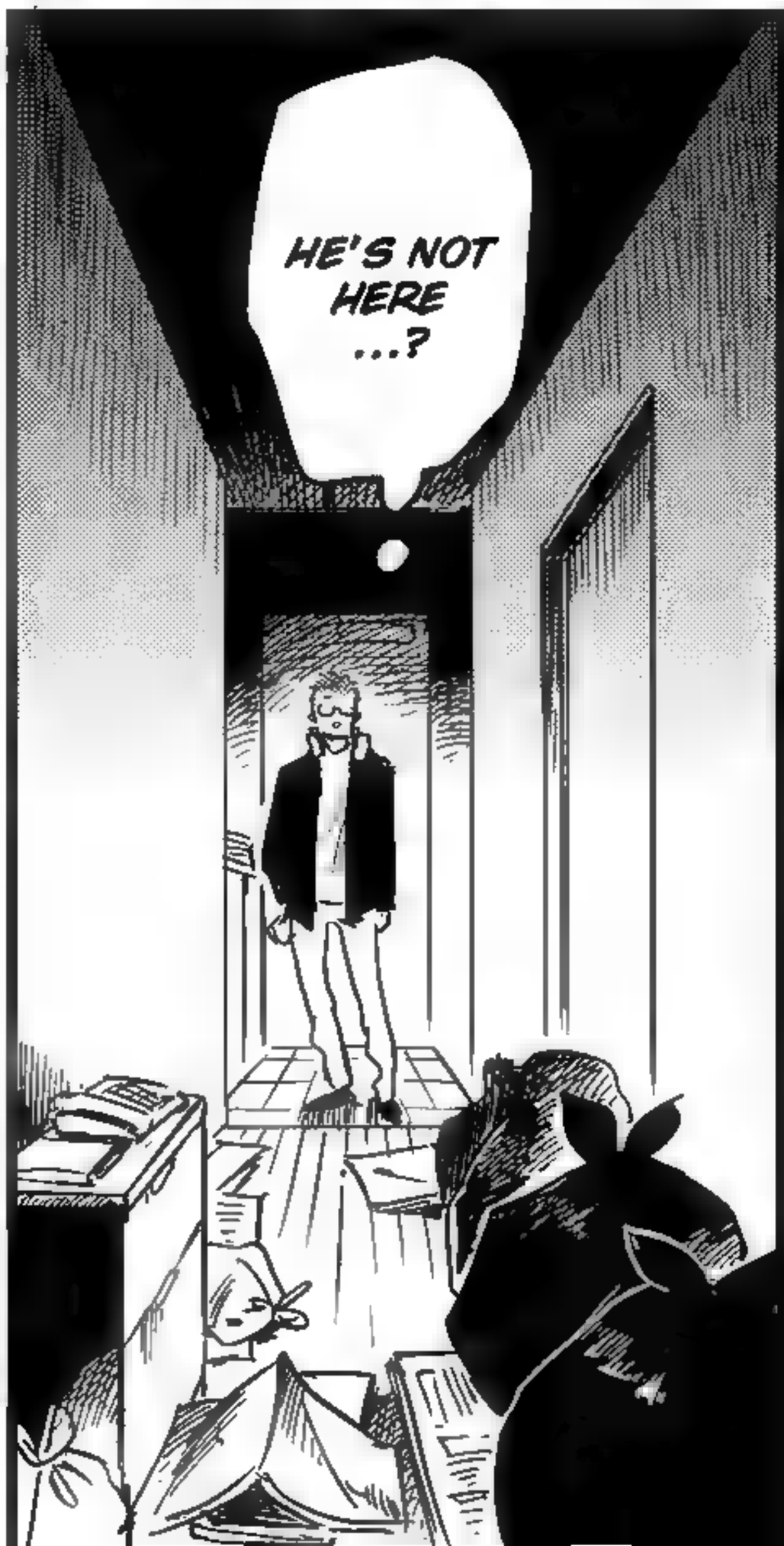
IT'S ME.

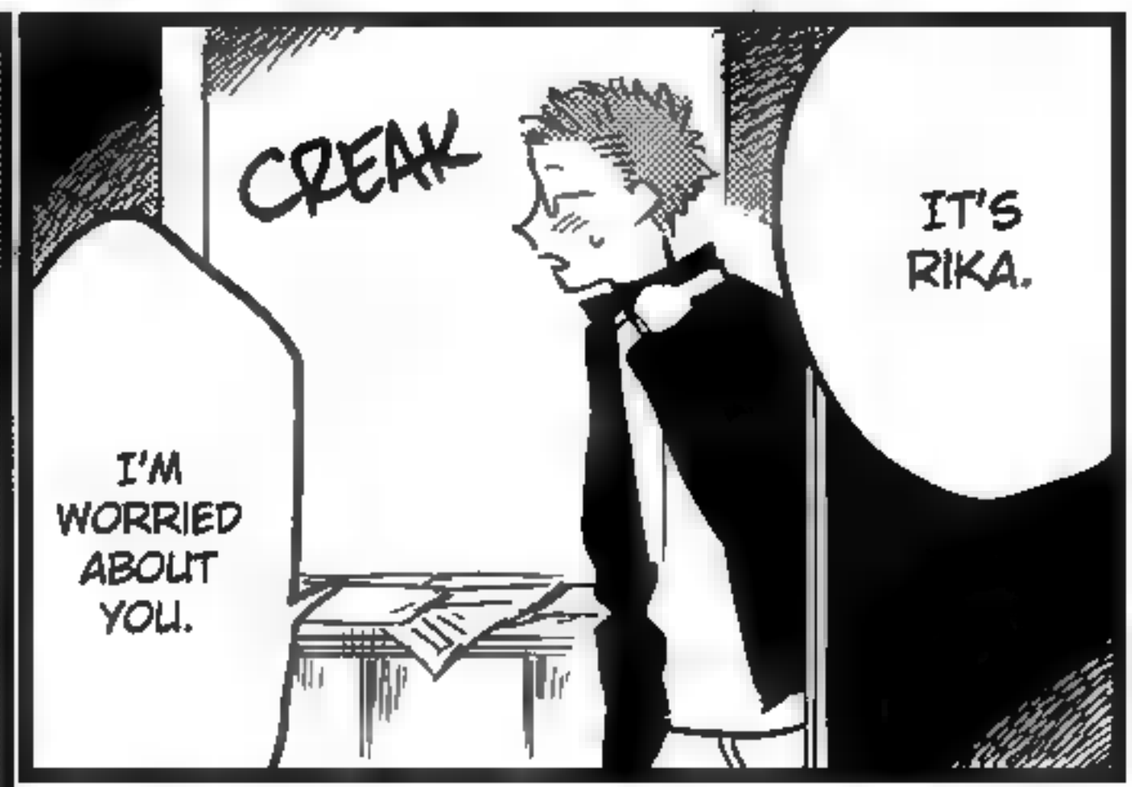
IT'S RIKA.

SILENCE...

WAKI -SAN?


CREAK...
OH, IT'S UNLOCKED ...


HE'S NOT HERE ...?


CREAK
IT'S RIKA.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

P-TMP
...WAKI -SAN?

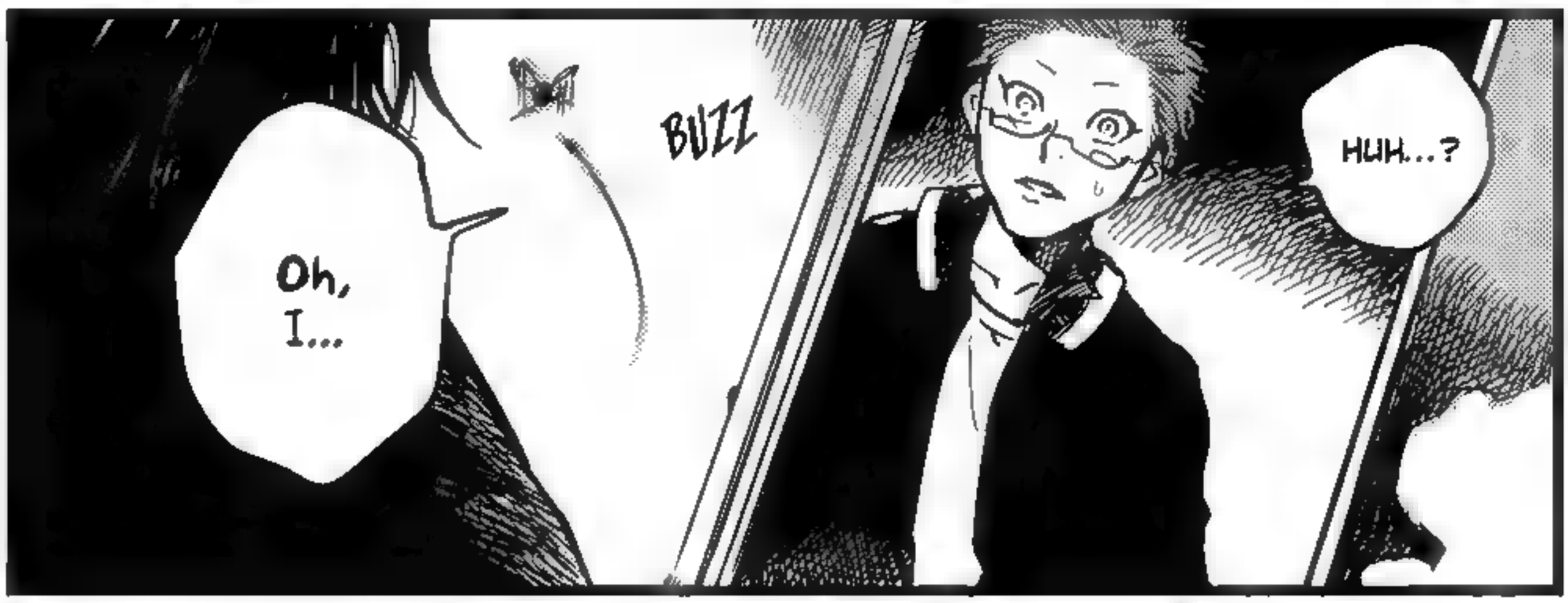
WAKI-SAN?

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE!

Waki-s-

RIKA.

WHAT'S WRONG?



OH!
GRIP
HOSHIHIKO'S CONTACT INFORMATION ISN'T ON THE EMPLOYEE ROSTER.

YEAH...

NOBODY'S COMING TO THE OFFICE ANYMORE...

HAD THE SMELL OF DEATH ON HIM.
IT WAS HIM.
HUH...?

WHAT A HEARTLESS GUY...

IT WASN'T ME...
WHO HOSHIHIKO SAID...

I had things...
BZZZZT
THUD
WHY DOES NOBODY TELL THE TRUTH?
IT WAS THE OLD MAN.
THUD
To ask Waki-san about his past, but...
RIGHT?
THUD
Had he really recovered?

WAKI-SAN.

...I'M SORRY.

I...

Did I just one-sidedly develop expectations?

I only wanted to understand...

I had a feeling I'd betrayed him...

and [redacted] feelings for the boss.

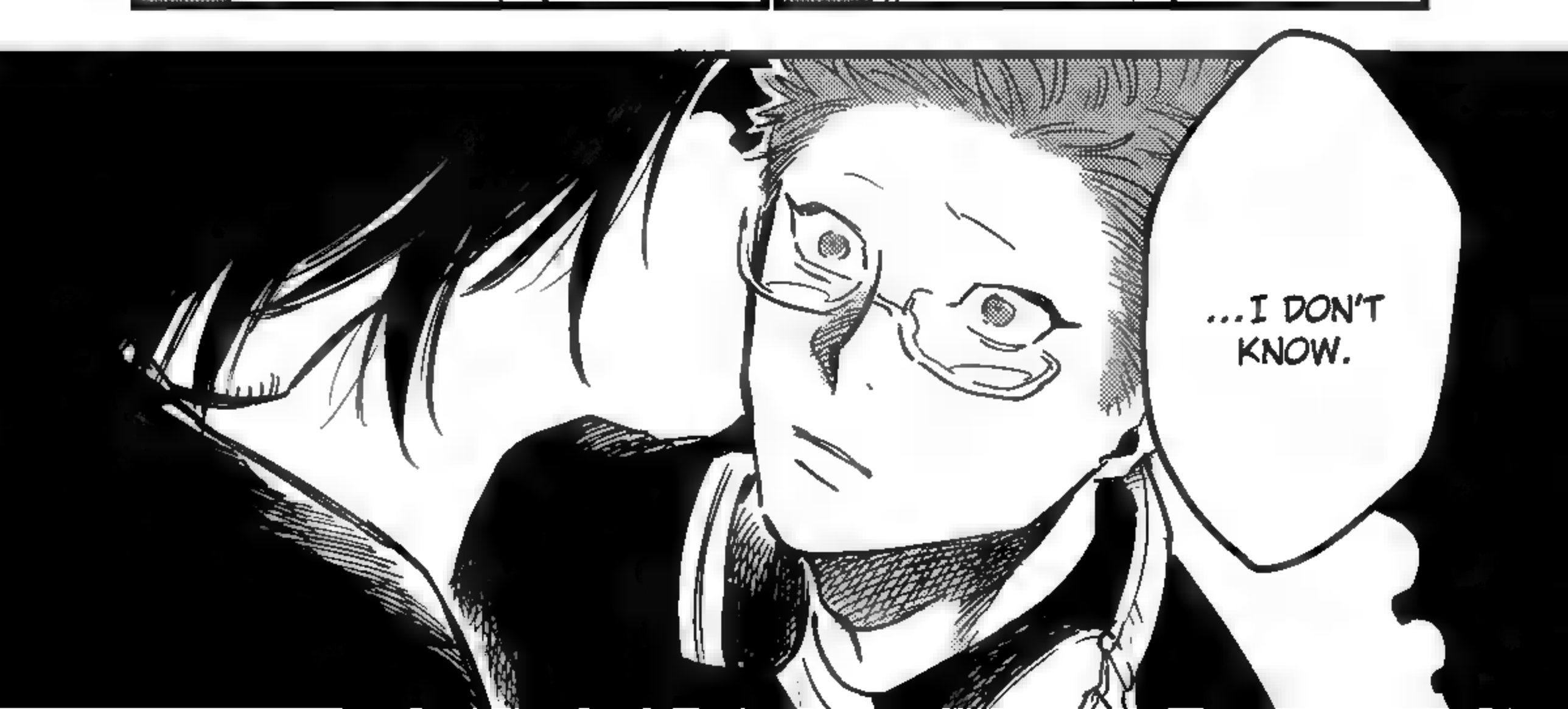
Probably didn't know anything about Waki-san.

Even though I love...

The man before me...

...WAKI-SAN.

DO YOU LOVE ME?



...THAT'S HARSH.

BUT IT'S BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.

GASP...

WAKI-SAN.

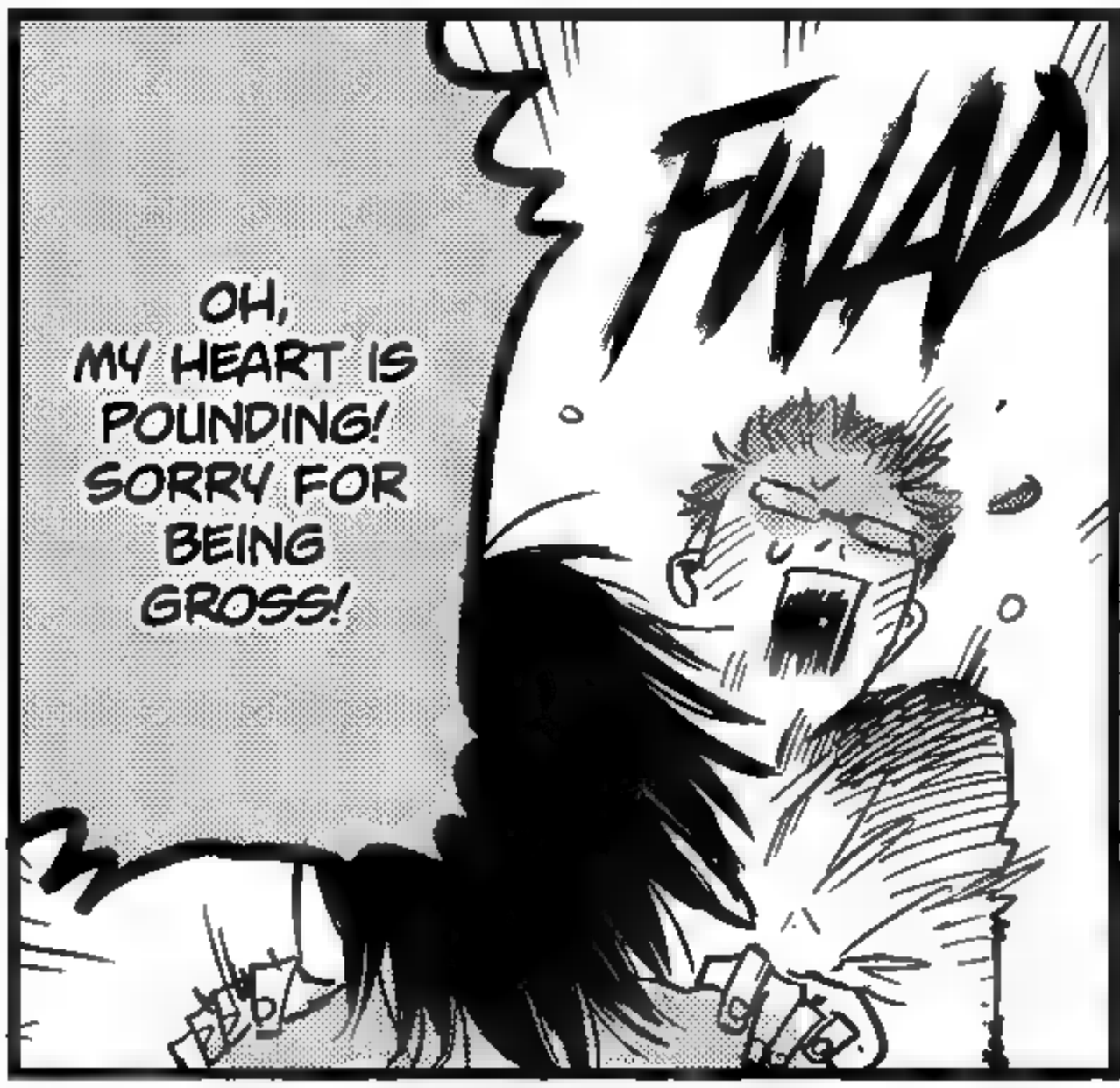
HONESTLY, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND YOU.

I DIDN'T UN-DERSTAND YOU,

BUT...

GOING FORWARD...
RI-

HOW I FEEL FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
I WANT TO LIVE LIKE THIS.
THAT'S...


FWAP
OH, MY HEART IS POUNDING! SORRY FOR BEING GROSS!

...WARM.

HAHA!
I MEAN...

I...

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT LIVING.

AM DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO DIE!

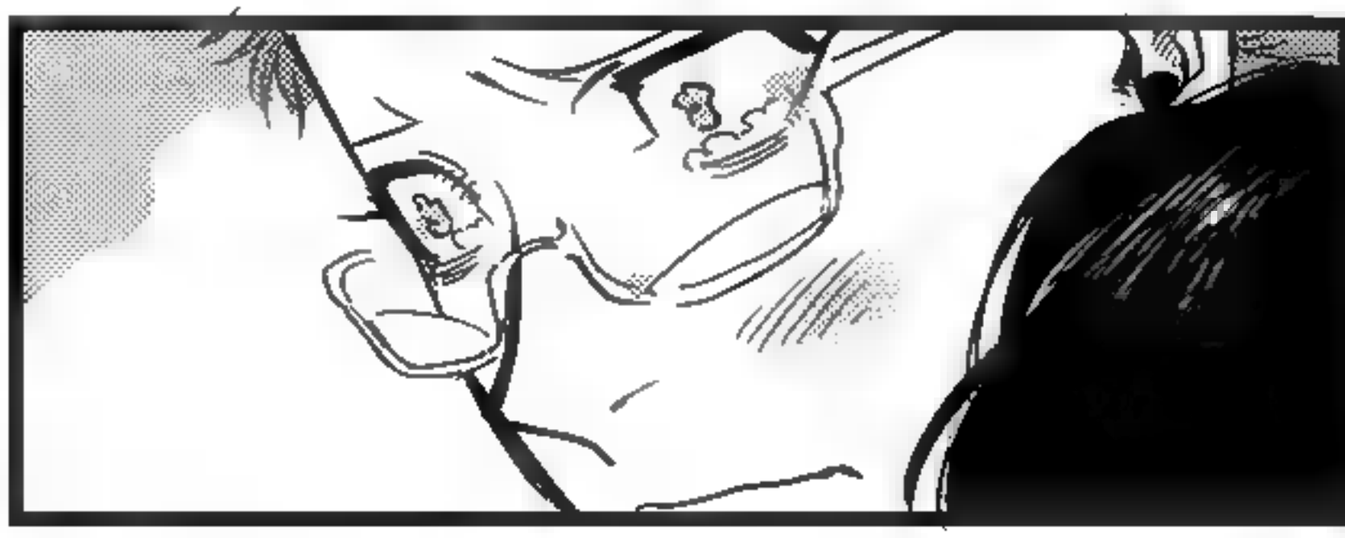
...

SILLY...

I DEFINITELY WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE.

POFF

GRIP...
RIKA.



...THANK YOU.

YES...!

SEE?!

SOCIAL MEDIA IS REALLY EF-FECTIVE!

LOOK AT OUR TSMIT-TER!

UH, UM...

COME ON IN!

YEAH, YEAH...

SHOO SHOO

BOW

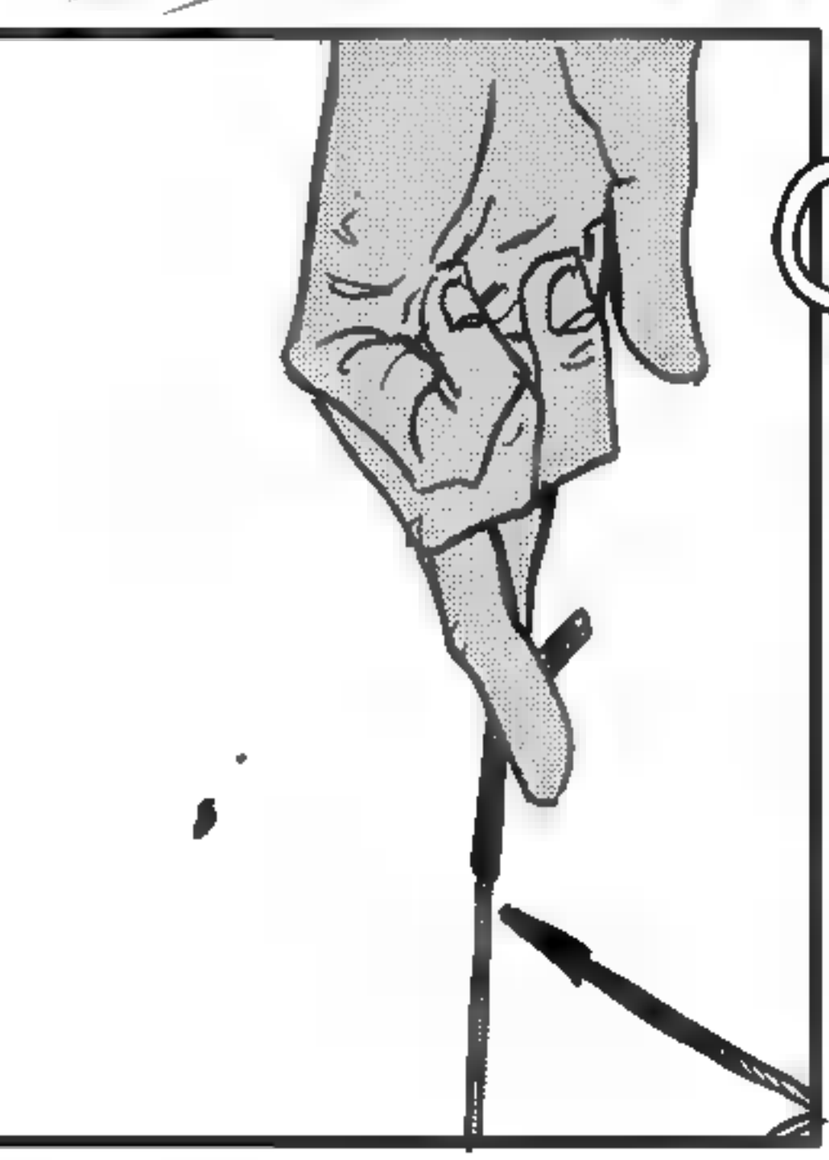
NOW, THEN...

HAVE A SEAT, PLEASE.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

◆ CHAPTER 6 END ◆

Shinonime T
Ibunroku



Shinonome Tantei Ibun Roku

The Annals of the Strange Tales of the Daybreak Detective - Prequel

An alleyway tucked behind another alleyway that's behind another alleyway ...

...Located in a place where no one could find it...

There is a...

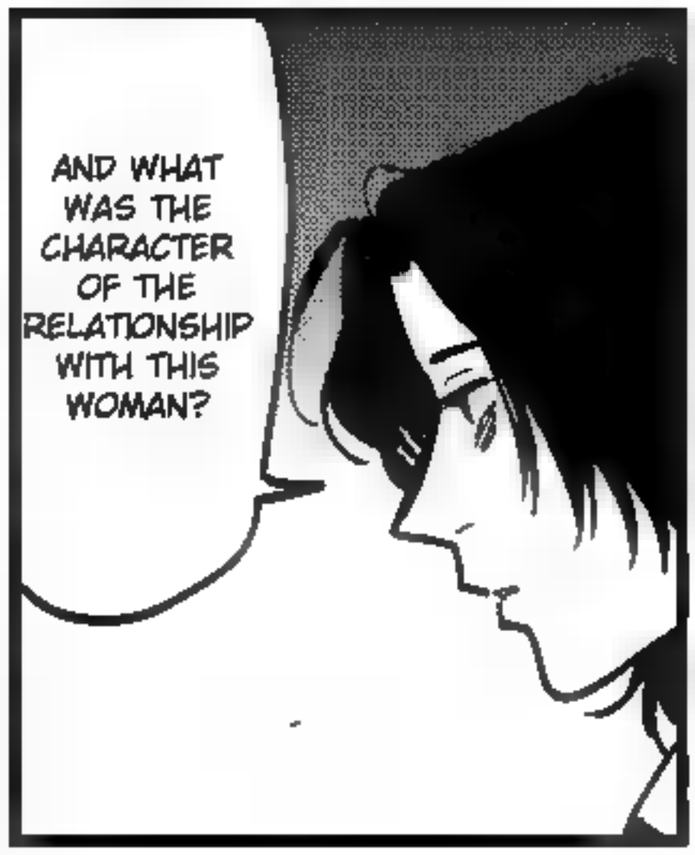
WELL, THIS IS WHAT WE ARE, BUT...
Dubious and dirty detective office.
BUILDING
DID YOU ONLY COME TO LOOK AT THE SIGN?
OH, THE TEA'S STILL WARM. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?
Detective: DOUCHIN WAKI
Our protagonist

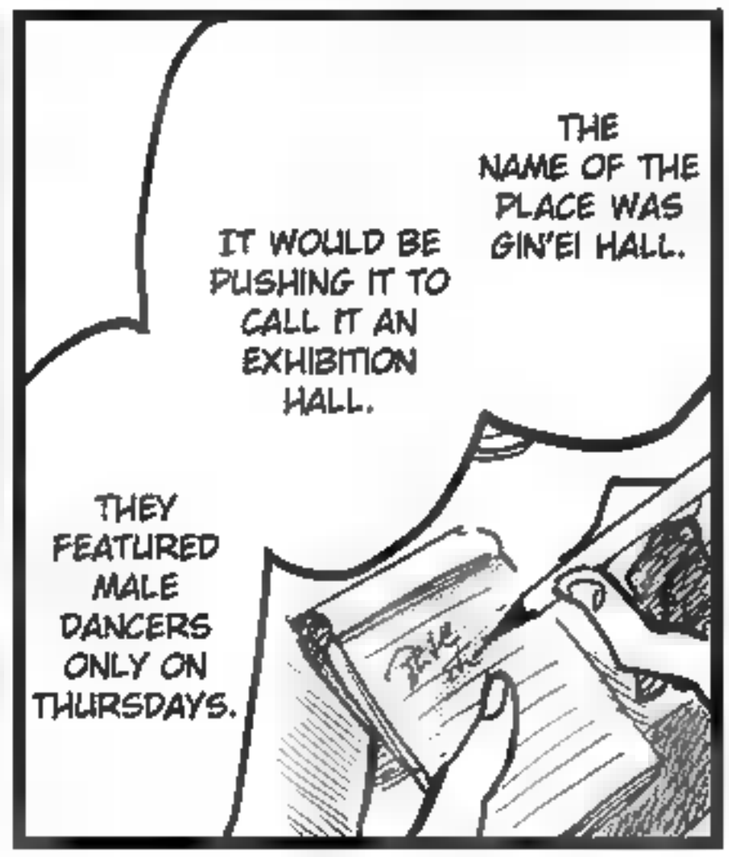
Prequel
Shinonome Tantei Ibun Roku
The Annals of the Strange Tales of the Daybreak Detective

MORISHITA IZUMI
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
YES...
A PERSON I MET ABOUT 30 YEARS AGO IN A SPA TOWN.
IT WAS MY FIRST TIME.
AMONG THEM WAS A STRIP CLUB IN A TINY HUT WHERE I WOULD GO SOMETIMES.
SO IN ORDER NOT TO BE HIDDEN, THE SHOPS CAME UP WITH A SCHEME WHERE THE EAVES ALL LINED UP.
AT THAT TIME THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THIS ONSEN TOWN WERE ALL CROWDED TOGETHER,

...DO YOU KNOW THE PARTICULARS OF THE ESTABLISH-MENT?

YES, YOU COULD BELIEVE IT WAS FATE.
THIS INTENSE ENCOUNTER ...


AND WHAT WAS THE CHARACTER OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS WOMAN?


THE NAME OF THE PLACE WAS GIN'EI HALL.
IT WOULD BE PUSHING IT TO CALL IT AN EXHIBITION HALL.
THEY FEATURED MALE DANCERS ONLY ON THURSDAYS.

...THAT PARTNER WAS...

THAT'S RIGHT.
I CAN'T EVEN TELL THE POLICE.
IS THERE A... PRACTITIONER-CLIENT PRIVILEGE FOR DETECTIVES?

IT WAS A MAN.

HE APPEARED TO BE IN HIS LATE TEENS AND HAD A LIGHT COMPLEXION.

WHEN I THINK OF IT NOW, HE MAY HAVE HAD SOME FOREIGN BLOOD.

AT THE CLUB, HIS NAME WAS...

HOSHIHIKO.

THAT'S ALL I KNOW ABOUT HIM...

BECAUSE I RAN AWAY...

*T/N: An onsen town about 80 miles northwest of Tokyo.

THOSE DAYS ARE GONE, ALONG WITH THE CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE FADED AWAY AND LEFT THE PLACE ABANDONED.
...WHAT A SPLENDID RUIN.

THE PROPRIETOR IS IN THE NEXT WORLD.
NO ENTRY
EI
HALL

I CAN TALK WITH THE CURRENT BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD...
OR MAYBE THERE'S A REGISTRY FOR THE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.
OWNAH? HE NO HEAH.
HE DOWN IN TOKYO HAVING FUN.

I LET...

...YOU PUT YOUR FINGER INSIDE.

TONIGHT THURSDAY SERVICE DAY. STAY!

ISS FINE! ISS FINE!

I'LL PASS...

FRENCH ST

HE SAY HE BE BACK TOMORROW.

THEN I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW.

...I'LL COME AGAIN TOMORROW.

FRENCH STRIP

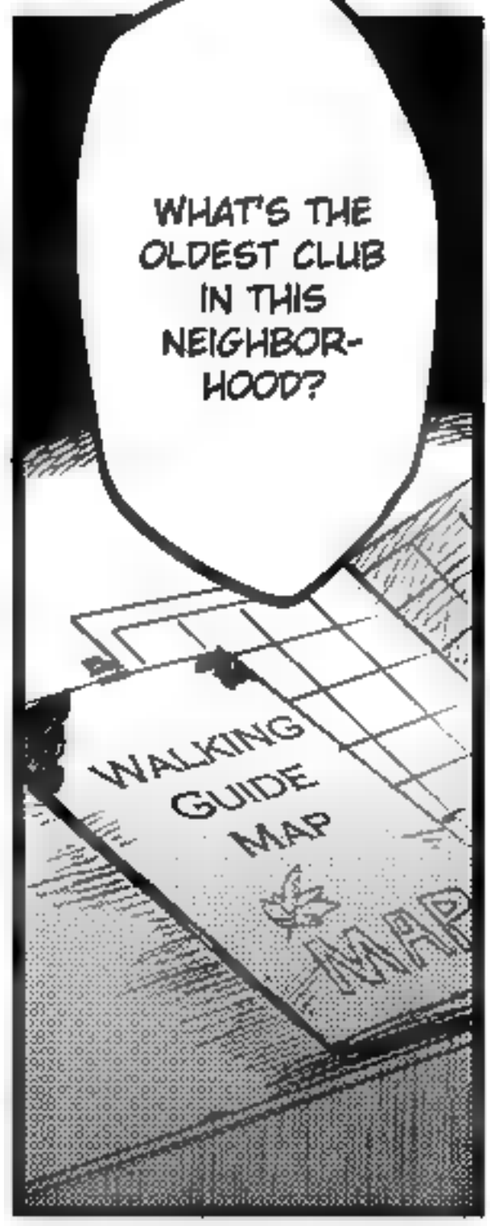
SEEE YOUUU!

AHAHA! WHAT STRANGE FACE!

startle

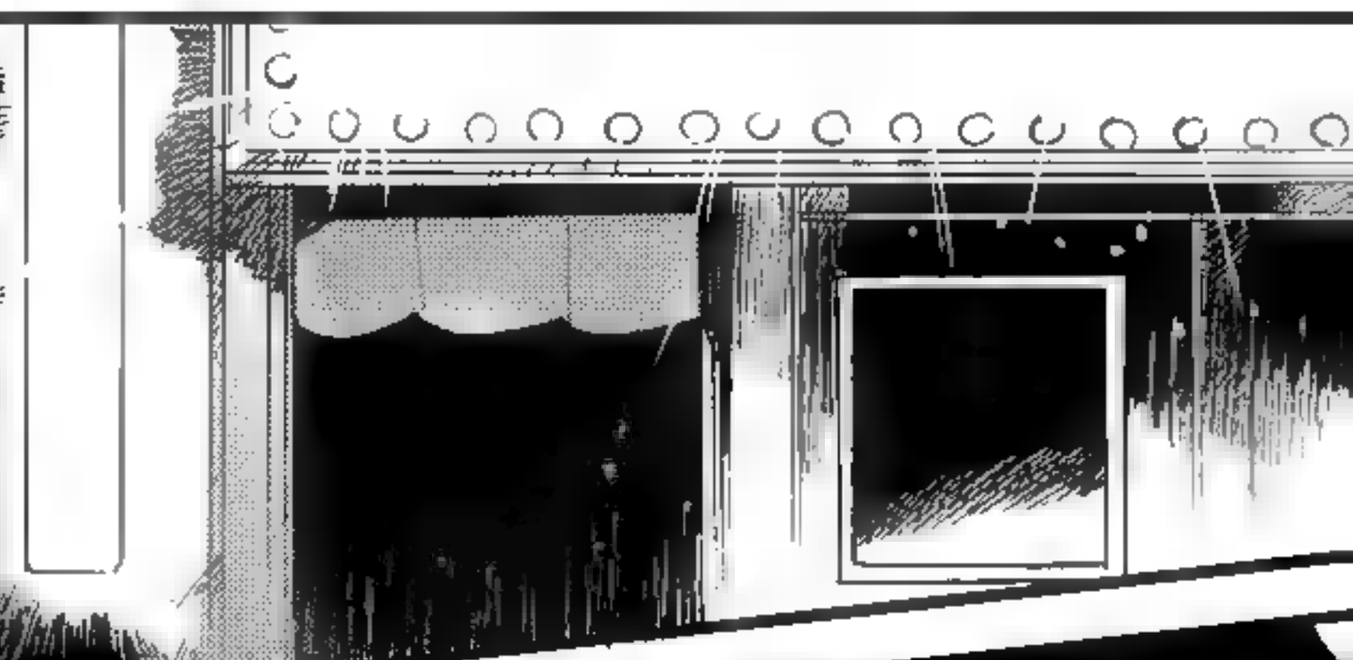
GIN' EI HALL
AS I THOUGHT, IT'S SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE?

KARAOKE BAR AZUMI
PUB B


WHAT'S THE OLDEST CLUB IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD?
WALKING GUIDE MAP
MAP

EXCUSE ME.
I HAVE TO GET SOME WORK DONE BEFORE I SLEEP.
YES, SIR?

YOU PASS GIN'EI HALL ON YOUR RIGHT...



CLICK

STRANGE ...
THIS AFTERNOON IT APPEARED TO BE ABANDONED.
CLACK
CLACK
NO ENTRY

THE LIGHTS ARE ON...

GIN
EI

CLICK
SUCK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
END

TOUCH
YOU ARE...

BUMP
HOSHI...
BABUMP
...HIKO-SAN?
BABUMP

BABUMP

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK...

ON THURSDAY...

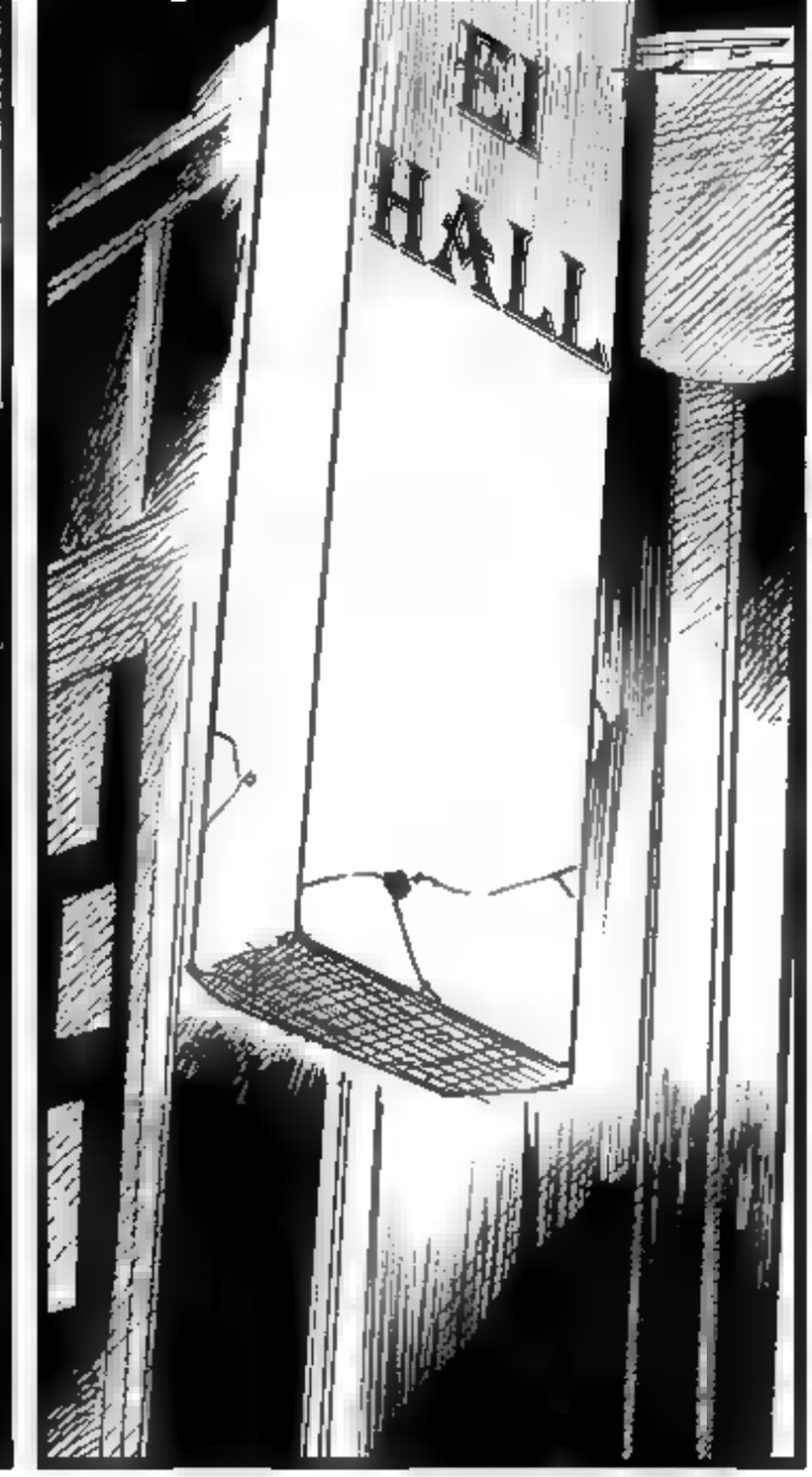
BABUMP

A DREAM ...

fresh and airy...

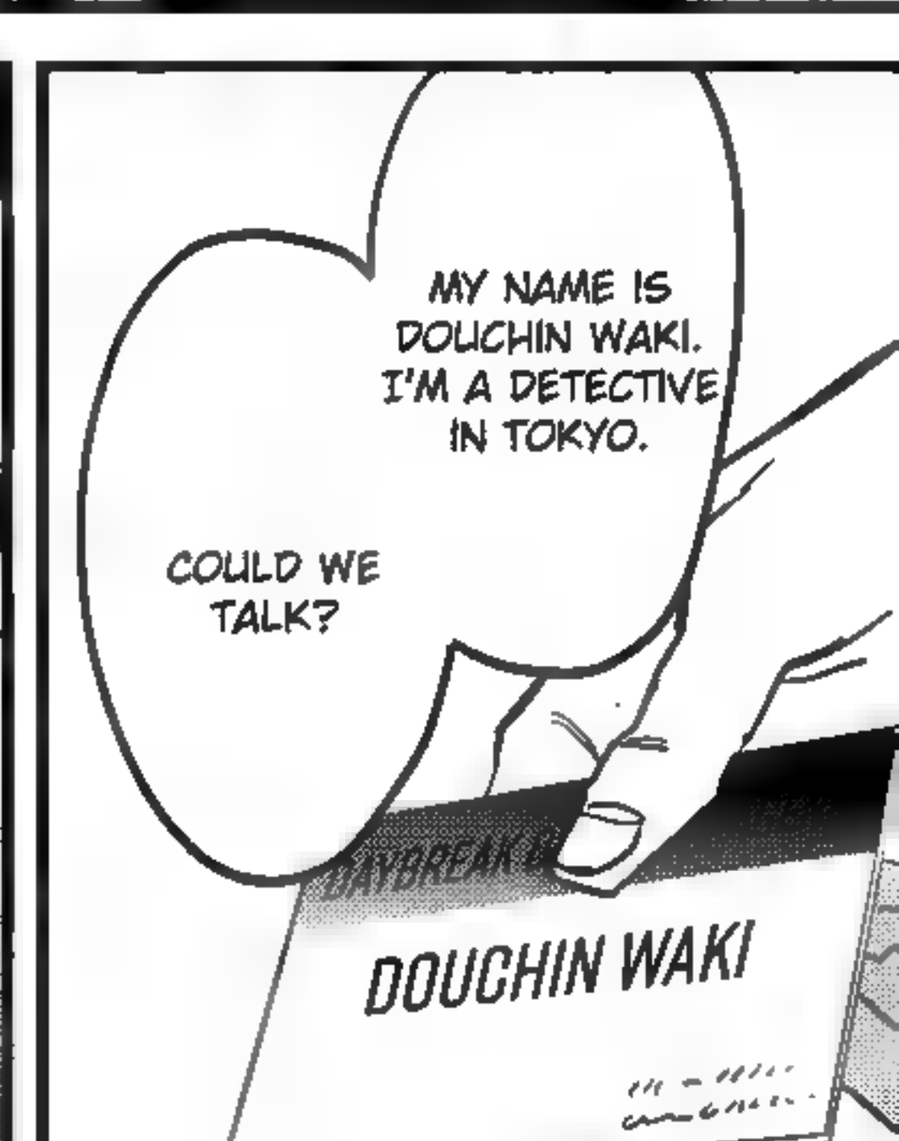
OH, ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CAME YESTERDAY, ONII-CHAN?
HUH?

IT IS ABANDONED, AFTER ALL.

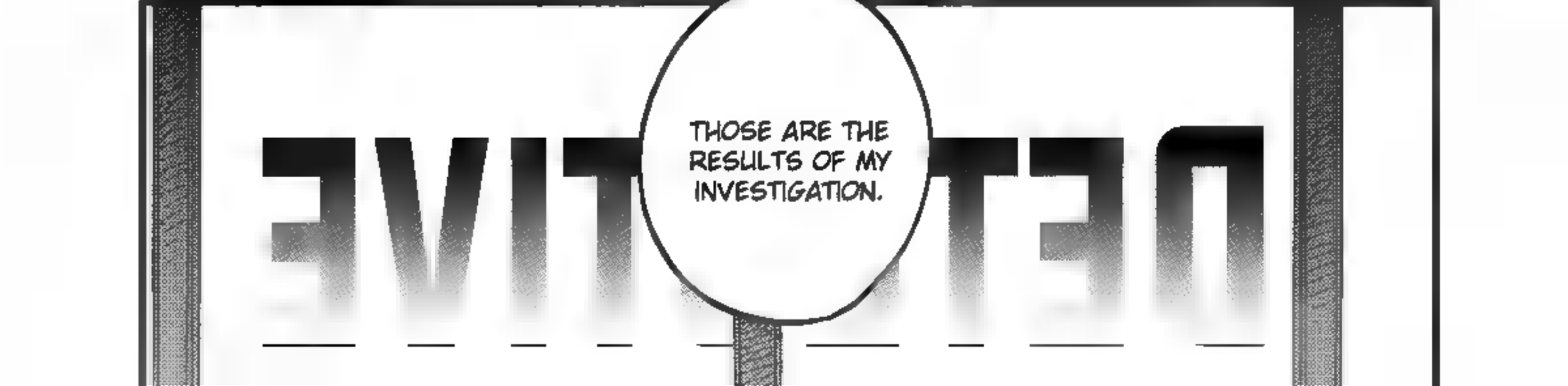

EI
HALL

GIN'EI HALL?
GIN'EI WAS FOR WEIRDOS ONLY. IT WAS A PERVERTS' CLUB.
ON THURSDAYS ONLY HOMOS CAME.

I'M ITOU. I RUN THIS PLACE.
AH?
YEAH, BOING-BOING MOMMY TOLD ME.

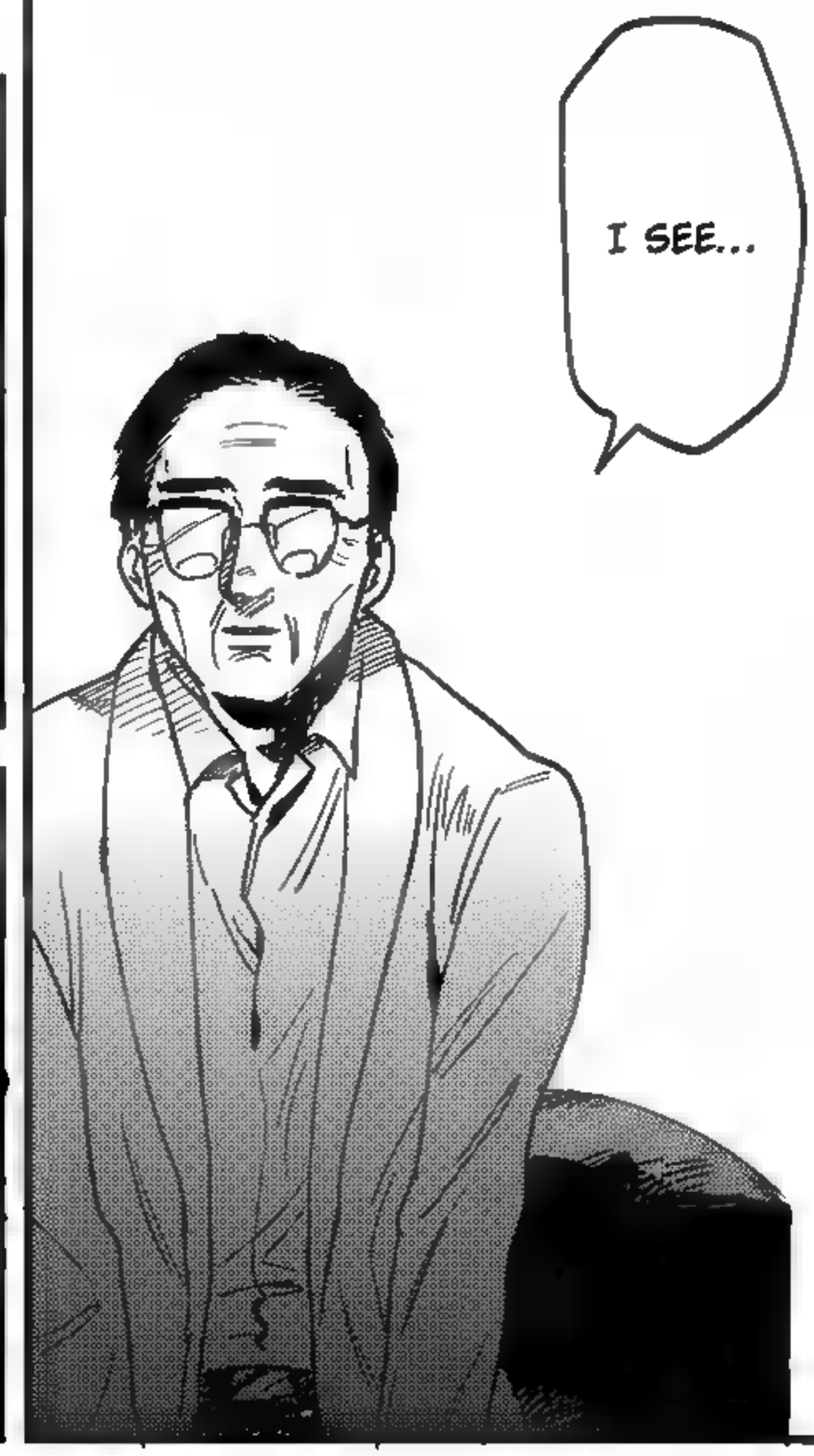

MY NAME IS DOUCHIN WAKI. I'M A DETECTIVE IN TOKYO.
COULD WE TALK?
DOUCHIN WAKI

*T/N: "Hoshi" means "star." "Hiko" is a common ending for a man's name, and it means "boy."



...THE TRUTH IS, I WAS ENGAGED TO HOHSIHIKO.

OF COURSE, IT WAS JUST A VERBAL AGREEMENT, BUT WE WERE BOTH ■ EARNEST.
HOWEVER. THERE WERE MANY CUSTOMERS OF THAT CLUB WHO WERE ABLE TO LURE HOSHIHIKO WITH MONEY...


I SEE...

...IN THE END I WAS ONLY ABLE TO PURSUE A HALF-HEARTED RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

I HAD NEITHER MONEY NOR COURAGE.
I DIDN'T GO ALL OUT FOR HIM.

THE CURRENT INSTALLMENT.

SORRY FOR SAYING TOO MUCH.

NOT AT ALL.

THE LOCATION OF HIS GRAVE...

THIS IS ENOUGH.

I WON'T RUN AFTER A DEAD PERSON...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

HOW UNSATISFYING ...

IT HARDLY...

ON THURSDAY ...

DROP

CLANK

GIN
EI
HALL
BOOMF

ARE YOU...

...WAITING FOR..
MORISHITA IZUMI?

...WELL?

IS IZUMI-SAN...

...HE HASN'T COME TO SEE YOU.

THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT.
IF HE'S WELL...
OH...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THURSDAY.

WHAT...?

KA MU'S

TSUCHIYA'S BAR

LIQUOR

IN THE END, THAT MAN CALLED HOSHIHIKO...

LOVE ISN'T A BEAUTIFUL THING, YOU KNOW.

THAT KIND OF THING...

gulp

ALL BECAUSE OF LOVE, HUH...?

THAT LITTLE DIVE WAS LIKE A LESSON TO US.

HE GOT SICK OF BEING BOUGHT BY OLD MEN AND HANGED HIMSELF.

IT'S NOT STRANGE AT ALL THAT YOU SAY HE BECAME A GHOST.

I HATE IT.

IT'S A CURSE.

SHIRONOME TANTEI IBUN ROKU END

The Annals of the Strange Tales of the Daybreak Detective - Prequel

Shinonime T
Ibunroku

And he ♂ shaved his beard.
His hair had gotten longer.
inhale
UM..
HOTEL REVENGE

I THOUGHT IT WAS LATE.
CRUSH
inhale
Ex-excuse me, it might be too soon still, but...
Huh?!
CREAK...
Shlip

BLUSH...

(huff)

...ARE YOU HARD?

slide

CREAK...

THAT'S GOOD.

Oh

I- I'm sorry...

UP

I ALREADY CHECKED IT AND WASHED IT, BUT...

DRIP

NGH...!
My earlobe...!
WAKI-SAN, THAT'S KIND OF...
AWESOME ...
Hm?

THAT'S SO SEXY...!

BECAUSE I'M AN OLD GUY...

HAHA!

WHO STUDIES.

huff

HEY.

HE LAUGHED ...

PUT IT IN.

TAP

POke

HUH?
FW-
Did we switch?
...!
RELAX.
WHP
GLOMP
I LOVE YOU!!!
AHA HA HA!
WAKI AND RIKA?

THOSE TWO WILL WORK IT OUT.

Indeed...

I STILL LOOK AT WAKI AS A KID.

RIKA, TOO.

exhale

BECAUSE HE'S A KID.

A KID AND A KID WILL GET ALONG.

AH...

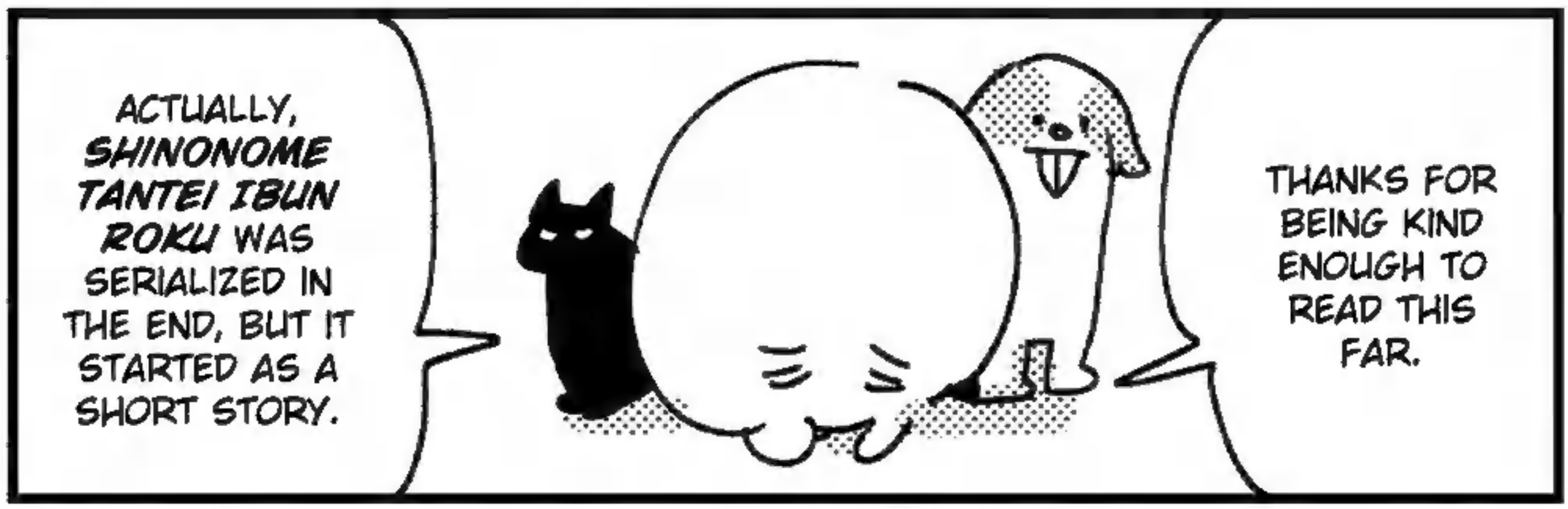
HEY.

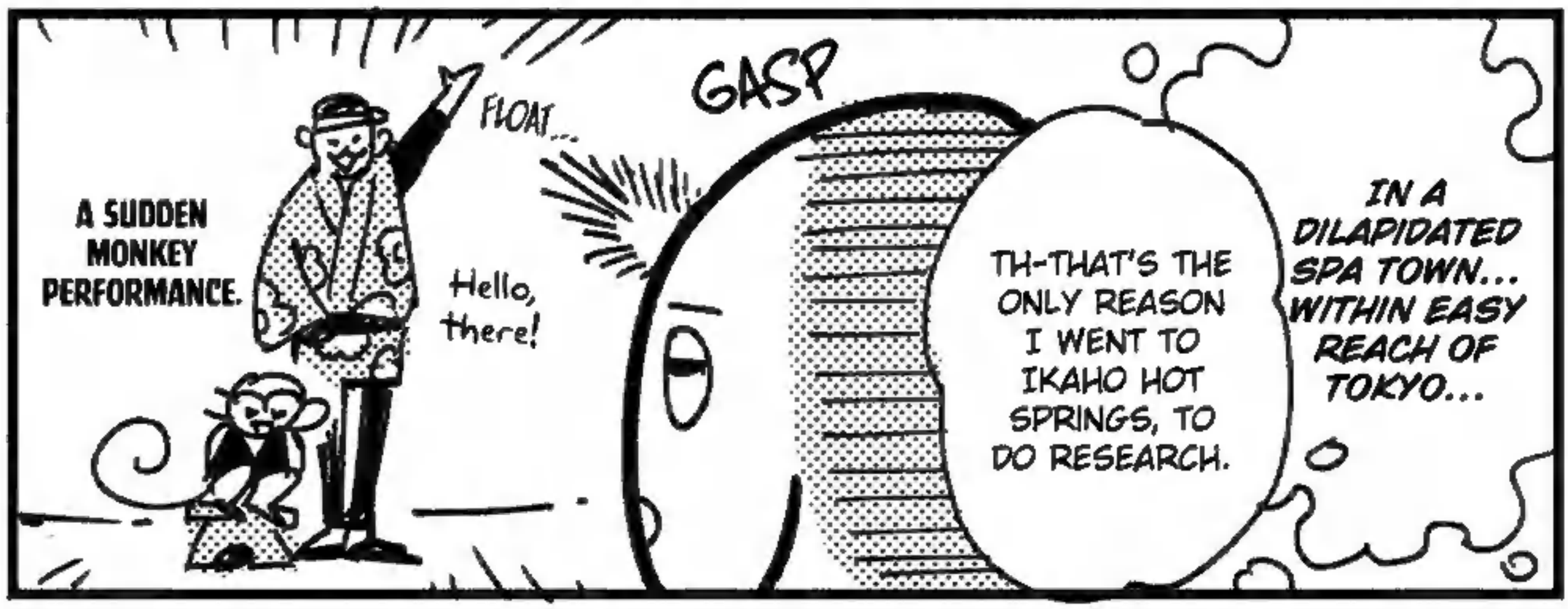
FLOAT...

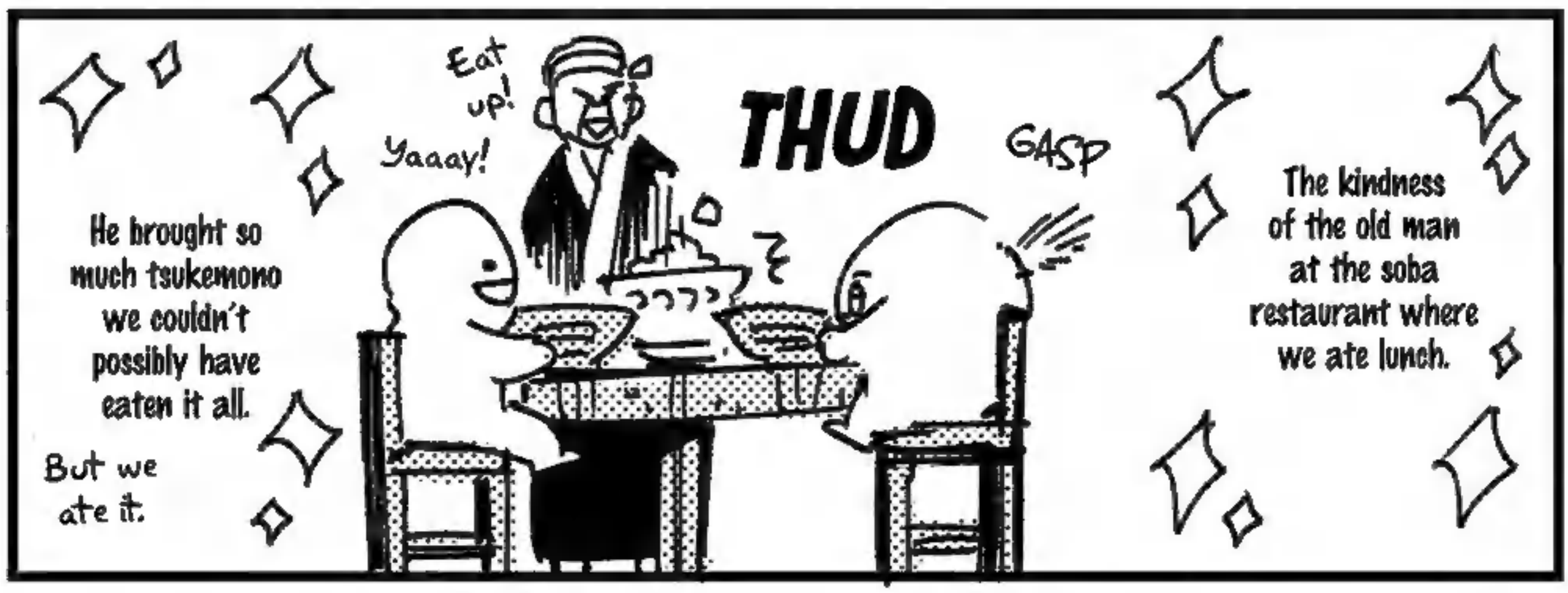
OH.

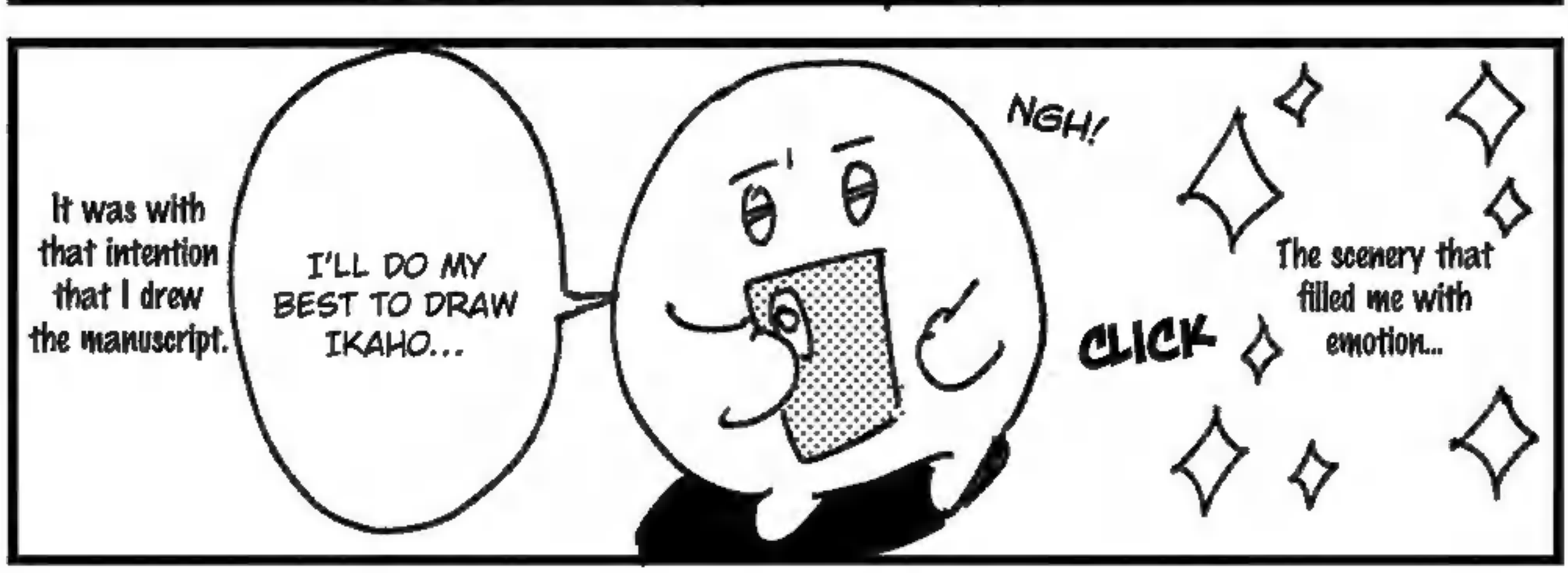
ALL OF YOU...
ARE HAVING A HAPPY ENDING.
END

AFTERWORD


ACTUALLY, *SHINONOME TANTEI IBUN ROKU* WAS SERIALIZED IN THE END, BUT IT STARTED AS A SHORT STORY.
THANKS FOR BEING KIND ENOUGH TO READ THIS FAR.


A SUDDEN MONKEY PERFORMANCE.
FLOAT...
Hello, there!
GASP
TH-THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I WENT TO IKAHO HOT SPRINGS, TO DO RESEARCH.
IN A DILAPIDATED SPA TOWN... WITHIN EASY REACH OF TOKYO...


He brought so much tsukemono we couldn't possibly have eaten it all.
But we ate it.
Eat up!
Yaaay!
THUD
GASP
The kindness of the old man at the soba restaurant where we ate lunch.


It was with that intention that I drew the manuscript.
So why...?
I'LL DO MY BEST TO DRAW IKAHO...
NGH!
CLICK
The scenery that filled me with emotion...

ファンレター、ご意見・ご感想は下記住所までお寄せください。

※お送りいただいたお手紙・おハガキは著者にお渡しすることもあります、
あらかじめご了承ください。

〒101-0061
東京都千代田区神田三崎町3-6-5　原島本店ビル2F
株式会社コミックハウス　OPERA編集部

EDGE COMIX

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The setting is the Daybreak Detective Agency in a back alley.

From searching for people to eradicating ghosts, detective Waki will take it on.

Part-timer Rika is in love with Waki. Hoshihiko is attracted to Waki's scent.

The door of the Daybreak Detective Agency will open for lost clients.

OPERA
EDGE COMIX
SERAPHIC DEVILTRY
Cleaning: Karuna (HERO SCANS)